

Hafa Adai!

'RB' relaunches Neighborhood Watch Program. **PAGE 3**
Rape charges against Dewey dismissed. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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Guam resident arrested for drug trafficking



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas shares details regarding the arrest of a Guam resident caught with possession of 3 lbs of meth during a media conference yesterday at the DPS headquarters in Susupe.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A Customs airport search revealed 1.3 lbs of meth in the carry-on bag of a 48-year-old woman arriving from Guam.

The Department of Public Safety said Millie Reyes Mantanona was arrested on Aug. 30, 2024 and charged with trafficking and possession of a controlled substance. After



DPS

Guam resident Millie Reyes Mantanona takes her police mug shot.

» **3 lbs of meth with street value of \$281K seized**

a search warrant was issued, police found another 2 lbs of meth at her Garapan residence the following day, bringing the total seized amount to just over 3 lbs, which has an estimated street value of \$281,400.

Mantanona has been charged for trafficking and

See **DRUG** on Page 4



DPS

The TruNarc analyzer shows a positive result next to one of the bags of meth seized from Millie Reyes Mantanona.

HOOD ON HYATT CLOSURE

'I just couldn't let that happen'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Following a fateful breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Saipan just days after its closure announcement, businessman David Hood knew he had to save the island's iconic hotel property, and he wasn't going to let anything stop him.

Hood, a businessman who fell in love with Saipan over 10 years ago, shared that after a defining breakfast at the former Hyatt hotel back in

See **HYATT** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Gloria Cavanagh, left, and David Hood, who will be running the former Hyatt Regency Saipan under a new name yet to be identified, pose for a photo at the former Hyatt Regency property in Garapan.

Man dies day after hitting flame tree

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A 42-year-old man died a

day after he blacked out and struck a flame tree with his car last Sunday in Lower Dan Dan, according to the

Department of Public Safety.

During a media conference at DPS headquarters in Susupe yesterday, DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas shared

See **MAN** on Page 4

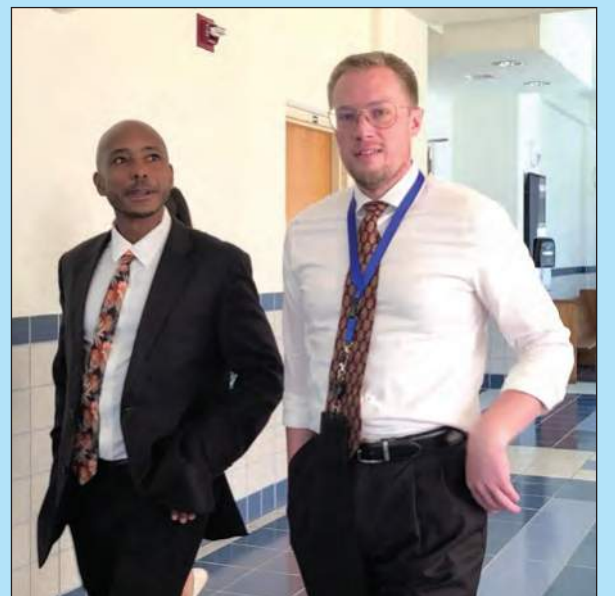
Text vs. testimony?

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Both the defense and prosecution attorneys made their closing statements before the jury in the rape trial of a former law clerk accused

See **TEXT** on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, left, and assistant attorney general Dan Johnson of the prosecution team walk back to the courtroom after a short recess in Day 4 of the William Abraczynski jury trial yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.



INSIDE



BUSINESS

New Mirage Spa has a new massage package to celebrate the opening of Paseo de Marianas to vehicular traffic.

PAGE 13



WORLD

The United States and Britain pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine on Wednesday during a visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Taylor Swift won the biggest award at the MTV Video Music Awards—the trophy for video of the year for "Fortnight," featuring Post Malone.

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Local

9 VOTM contestants advance to semifinal round

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Nine of the 16 contestants competing in the 2024 Voices of the Marianas advanced to the show's semifinal round this Saturday afternoon.

After the show's elimination round last Saturday, contestants Karlymae Lizama, Alyana Rotap, Johanna Mogar, Kaden Manglona, Jason Lizama, Justin Tubera, Lou Guevarra, Donna Rose Santiago, and Franko Deleon Guerrero passed the judges' criteria with flying colors and made it to the next round.

The show's audition and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The nine contestants that made it through the Voices of the Marianas elimination round stand for a photo with judges and the Voices of the Marianas board last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

elimination rounds have been at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, but the semifinals this Saturday and the grand finals are set to be held from 1pm to 5pm at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

When speaking to the Voices of the Marianas team, they expressed their gratitude for all who have supported the show so far, and the contestants as well.

"Going into the semifinals, I am excited for those who still want to be a part of the Voices of the Marianas and its cause," said VOTM executive director and acting vice president Donovan Castro. "Despite not making it to the semifinal, these con-

testants still want to support the movement, so that, on its own, makes me overjoyed."

During the last elimination round, *Saipan Tribune* spoke to contestant Kaden Manglona after his heartfelt performance of Lewis Capaldi's *Someone You Loved*.

Evident from his "Biba Luta" cries after each performance, the teen confirms that he proudly hails from Rota, and that representing his home island on stage was amazing.

"I'm representing them and I'm proud of it and I feel very accomplished. In a way it's also something that has a hold on me and brings me into focus."

He also shared his gratitude to all supporters and family members who have been cheering him on.

"Their support really helps me unleash the full potential that I believe I have. I want to thank everyone that supported me. You guys are like my No. 1 fans. So, if anything I got to be thanking you guys. When I get back, maybe I'll bring McDonald's, I don't know. But yeah, Biba Luta!" Manglona said.

He shared that he heard about the contest during his time on Saipan for the NMTEch summer internship, but didn't know how to join. He eventually met someone involved and suggested he try out. He said that looking back, he is glad to have the opportunity to join the contest.

"It was just such a good, like, coincidence. I think it was fate that I was supposed to do it."

Voices of the Marianas shared that tickets for the semifinals are still on sale at \$20 for 13 years and older and \$10 for 12 to 6 years old. They said that there will be no walk-ins at the show and that to purchase a ticket, folks can contact numbers (670) 783-1541, (670) 285-2507, (670) 287-5135, (670) 588-3127, (670) 287-5862, or email voicesoft-hemarianas@gmail.com.

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'RB' relaunches Neighborhood Watch Program

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Following a recent spike in criminal activities including the theft of vehicle tires and gas, Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" B. Camacho is gradually working to re-launch his pet Neighborhood Watch Program and is calling upon community members to become an active part of this initiative when it launches.

"If you see something, say something," said Camacho.

Camacho first launched the program when he was still chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.



Camacho

The principal goal of the program is to implement a year-round community-based "Neighborhood Watch" effort by all to preserve the safety and security of all—children (*famagu'on*), youth (*manhoben*), adults and elderly (*man'amko*), families, households, businesses, non-profit organizations, See **WATCH** on Page 4

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Rape charges against Dewey dismissed

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The rape charges filed against Charles Lee Dewey III, also known as Carter Widmor while he was hiding out in Saipan, were dismissed pursuant to a plea agreement.

Dewey, a man who faced multiple charges including rape and sexual misconduct of a minor, pleaded guilty over the weekend to multiple felony counts before an

Allen County judge pursuant to a plea agreement.

Based on the plea agreement, Dewey agreed to plead guilty to multiple felony counts of sexual misconduct with a minor, child solicitation, possession of child pornography, dissemination of matter harmful to minors, and residential entry.

In exchange for his guilty plea, the Allen County Prosecutor's Office has agreed to drop two counts of rape filed against Dewey.

Aside from pleading guilty, Dewey has also agreed to pay back the cost of extradition which totaled \$31,660.

After the change of plea hearing last week, the Allen Superior Court went on to sentence Dewey for the crimes he pleaded guilty to.

For the sex crimes he committed against minors, the court sentenced Dewey to an imprisonment term of 14 years.

The court made most of Dewey's sentences concurrent, which means

they will be served at the same time, but combined 12 years and a consecutive two-year sentence to come up with 14 years.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TEXT

From page 1

of rape yesterday at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe.

Closing statements made were a fire of text versus testimony, with the prosecution focusing on testimony of the alleged victim and witnesses and the defense demonstrating that the text messages between the alleged victim and her alleged rapist, William Abraczinkas, didn't match with testimony she gave in court, adding that when observed, both time-wise, and regarding the trauma the alleged victim expressed she endured, the text didn't match the testimony.

Defense attorney Charlene Brown took the lead for the defense, "this case is about humiliation, it is about resentment, and it is about retaliation. Will (Abraczinkas) only wanted to be friends with [the alleged victim]. You do not see him sending her texts where he is 'kissy facing' her. [The

alleged victim] does. [She] wants more. And after April 16, she realizes there won't be."

During her rebuttal, assistant attorney general Frances Demapan said, "This is not the 'Emoji Trial.' We are not going to decide a sexual assault case, based on how a 50-year-old woman decides to use a kissy face and a laughing face emoji. The defense wants you to focus on what the victim did or didn't do. But the victim is not the one on trial here. This is a consent trial. This is a trial of a woman who tried to stop a friend, a co-worker, from raping her by pleading and crying, 'No! Stop! Please, William, don't do this.' And let's be clear about the use of this term, violent rape, in this case. A violent rape does not mean it must result in physical injuries. A rape is violent because it is against the victim's free will."

Day 4 of the trial concluded with no verdict reached by the jury. Jury deliberations continue early this morning, but it is unclear how long it will be until a verdict is reached.

DRUG

From page 1

possession of a controlled substance and is currently detained by the Department of Corrections on a \$100,000 bail.

Leading members from the Drug Enforcement Task Force on Saipan met with the media yesterday afternoon at the DPS headquarters in Susupe to shed more light on Mantanona's arrest.

DPS Commissioner Anthony Macaranas said Mantanona is a resident of Mongmong, Guam.

"When Miss Mantanona arrived on Saipan, a controlled operation led to the arrest of Miss Mantanona. Her first initial contact was 1.3 lbs of meth. Secondly, the task force got an arrest warrant on Aug. 31 from Associate Judge Joseph Camacho and did a search warrant at her apartment where they found the additional 2 lbs of meth."

He shared that the drug bust was conducted through to the efforts of the Drug Enforcement Task Force on Saipan, which includes DPS, DOC, Division of Customs and Biosecurity, and Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control.

According to DPS, officers had been monitoring Mantanona and were acting on information that led them to suspect she was smuggling illegal drugs into Saipan.

Macaranas said the case is still under investigation and currently there are no further details about Mantanona's network or potential con-

nections to larger drug operations.

He added that they will be working with the Guam Police Department to find out more about Mantanona and whether or not she has a criminal history.

For now, Mantanona remains in custody with her next court date yet to be announced.

"Three lbs of meth is a lot," said Macaranas. "Now that with collaborate efforts again with the group here, just a few months ago they did intercept it through the postal, through the courier that we have here, and it's the exact same amount, 3 lbs. So again, this is telling us that there is still a constant issue with methamphetamine here in the CNMI."

Asked if drug smugglers are becoming more brazen, Customs & Biosecurity director Jose C. Mafnas said, "For Customs, that's the biggest challenge for us, you know, to be looking at passengers. Who among 100 passengers is carrying [drugs], you know, it's a big challenge. So, this is, I guess one of those lucky shots that the officers encountered," he said.

Asked whether or not he plans to do frequent searches at the airport, or bring in more canines because of the Mantanona incident, Mafnas said they'll see what happens.

"We do have canines and that's one of the plans. In fact, we were just talking about our canine program. So those are part of our tools that we use at the ports of entry. Any tools, increase of officers, you know, we're chasing this."

He said the illegal drug trade is a true game of cat and mouse.

"We busted the post office based on our investigation. They said it's coming to the post office. We shifted more of our officers there. Then they moved to another area. We pushed officers there. We'll do everything to ensure that we stop it at the ports... You heard about fentanyl and its presence in Guam. We want to make sure that thing doesn't reach us."

DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres said whenever the task force apprehends illegal drug smugglers it's always a concerted effort.

"The task force has been delivering since we decided to combine and get together and renew this partnership. We all have great relationships here. We're going to continue to collaborate. We're going to continue to fight this. I do ask the community that if you see something, say something, report it, please. This substantial amount of drugs is taken off the streets that could negatively impact lives, families out in our community, so this is a huge win. But we're going to continue to fight this."

Macaranas also praised the work of the task force.

"I continue to encourage people that see or if they hear anything that's drug-related to contact the Department of Public Safety or if you are unable to call DPS, we have the Department of Corrections that can accept the calls along with the Customs & Biosecurity and that includes the Department of Commerce."

MAN

From page 1

that Stanford Abraham was involved in the aforementioned car accident at around 5:16pm last Sunday on Tun Herman Pan Road, near the intersection of Flame Tree Road.

Responding officers found Abraham's black sedan crashed into a flame tree, sustaining extensive front-end damage. Abraham was conscious and responsive at the scene, but complained of back pain.

He was immediately rushed to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for treatment. Abraham was the only person in the car.

"The operator at the time was wearing a seat belt. Alcohol and speed were not a factor, but unfortunately because of the medical emergency that incurred, the vehicle ran off the road and struck a flame tree. The operator was identified as a 42-year-old, last name's Abraham, first name's Stanford. He's a resident of San Vicente," Macaranas added.

DPS shared that preliminary in-

vestigation revealed that due to underlying health conditions, Abraham blacked out while driving southbound. Upon regaining consciousness, he found himself in the wreckage. When officers found him, he disclosed to authorities that he suffers from a medical condition that causes seizures and loss of consciousness.

Sadly, on Monday, Sept. 9, DPS was informed that Abraham succumbed to his injuries, passing away at 10am due to intra-abdominal bleeding. Investigators ruled out other potential contributing factors such as speed, alcohol, drugs, or traffic infractions.

"Currently right now Highway Patrol is still investigating the crash as to other factors of the crash," said Macaranas. "But as of right now we're classifying this as a non-traffic crash because of the nature of the operator that has succumbed to injuries that might be related to his medical condition."

As no criminal charges are expected, an autopsy will not be conducted, but Macaranas said that the case will remain under investigation.

HYATT

From page 1

May (following the announcement of Hyatt's closure), he decided that he would take it upon himself to save the place.

"It was May 1, I saw it in the paper, I was at the Hyatt for breakfast, and I was told that they wouldn't be taking anymore reservations and that it would be the last breakfast. So, I sat there for a while thinking 'what can I do to save this place? Do I have the ability to do that?' and I started working on it every day. After that defining breakfast, I started talking with Protopia immediately. It took a while but after reviewing my vision, they decided it was a good one. We marched on, got their approval in July, and then we had to go to DPL to show them our vision and it all worked out. They assigned the lease to us and we're taking over all the responsibilities of the existing lease. We

are basically in charge of the entire lease as it is," he said.

Hood, MB Capital LLC president, officially took over the Hyatt property lease last Aug. 3, from Saipan Portopia Corp. Saipan Portopia, who was operating the Saipan Hyatt Regency, signed a 40-year land lease agreement with the CNMI government last Jan. 1, 2022, but due to "continued challenges impacting Saipan and its tourism sector" they ceased operations last June 30, with 38 years left on the lease.

Even though many thought he was crazy for taking on a long-term lease on a property that could cost \$40 million to renovate during a time when tourist arrivals remain at a fraction of what it used to be, Hood was determined to save the former Hyatt hotel, a place that holds sentimental value in his heart.

"This hotel is completely sentimental to me. I've been coming here since my first visit to Saipan in 2013. This was the first place I stayed at when I found Saipan, and

I fell in love. It's a beautiful place, it's very unique, and when I heard it was going to close, I just thought I couldn't let that happen. It drove me crazy thinking this place would go to rubble. However, I want to thank Portopia though, they kept this place immaculate and did a stellar job in transition," he said.

Deemed the "fixer," Hood said he immediately went to work in trying to acquire the property even jokingly twisting his new general manager's, hotel industry expert Gloria Cavanaugh, arm to join him in this risk he was willing to take.

"My first thought was instead of worrying about it, what could I do, is there something I could do to help bring it back? I started that quest right away, it got some traction, and we ended up taking it over. I was in a position that I could, and I was just excited about doing it," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

WATCH

From page 3

and public facilities—in villages throughout Saipan.

Saipan Tribune reported last Sept. 3 two separate theft incidents that involved heavy equipment truck batteries and truck tires at the WIC Administrative Office in Upper Navy Hill and CTSI storage facilities.

Last Aug. 28, *Saipan Tribune* reported a spike in gas theft incidents wherein the Department of Public Safety issued a public warning across Saipan as thieves were primarily targeting 15-seater passenger vans. DPS also confirmed that within the week of Aug. 18-24, they received eight complaints involving the theft

of fuel from multiple vehicles, raising concerns among the local community and businesses.

Camacho added that any information or tips regarding these crimes will ultimately help law enforcement in protecting the community.

"Our island is a diverse community and I'm calling upon all of our ethnic groups to stand and work together to combat this unacceptable behavior," he added.

You may contact the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at (670) 234-7272 or leave an online tip on its website at nmicrimestoppers.net. You may also contact the Saipan Mayor's Office hotline at 234-DUTY (3889) or (670) 234-6208. Its office hours are Monday-Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. Its office is also open during lunchtime.

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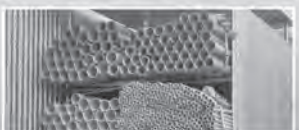


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New Agriculture Program leader joins NMC-CREES

Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services welcomes its new Agriculture Production Program leader, Dr. Adrian Ares.

Ares is a career scientist with a rich and diverse background. Born in Argentina, Ares earned his degrees in Forestry Engineering, Soil Science, and Agronomy. His extensive career has spanned across various institutions and countries, including five land-grant universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, and the Weyerhaeuser Company.

In addition to his extensive educational background, Ares designed, conducted, and supervised research in terrestrial ecology, soils, sustainable agriculture, plant nutrition, and other topics in temperate, subtropical, and tropical environments in more than 20 countries.

As a new member at NMC, Ares is currently planning research projects focused on improving agricultural practices in the CNMI, pertinent to the NMC-CREES goal of encouraging regenerative agriculture. One of his primary areas of interest is the use of cover crops to enhance soil health and

NMC-CREES Agriculture Program leader Dr. Adrian Ares examines a seedling alongside Keoni Tudela of the NMC-CREES Agroforestry program.

increase crop yields. In addition, Ares will test sweet potato varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases.

Ares shared his future research projects, stating, "Initially, I will conduct research on cover crops to improve soil conditions and crop yields, and on sweet potato varieties' resistance to weevils and other pests." He also mentioned his



participation in contributing to the wellbeing of commercial farmers, expressing, "I will also collaborate in projects led by other NMC-CREES scientists on cover crops with a dual

purpose (soil improvement and food production) and on strategies to increase revenues for CNMI farmers."

"With Dr. Ares's expertise and leadership, we are significantly expanding our research capabilities, empowering us to pursue innovative, stakeholder-focused research that directly addresses the needs of our community," stated interim dean Patricia Coleman.

The potential implications of Ares's research feats are significant for agriculture health in the CNMI. By developing sustainable agricultural practices, Ares's work could help to reduce the CNMI's reliance on imported food, protect its natural resources, and improve the overall quality of life for its residents.

Ares is also driven by a desire to address broader scientific questions within his field. He is interested in conducting a global meta-analysis of regenerative agriculture based on scientific evidence. This research could provide valuable insights into regenerative agriculture practices worldwide.

As Ares embarks on his research and extension efforts with NMC-CREES, the CNMI community is encouraged to support his work and explore opportunities to participate in sustainable agriculture initiatives. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950

PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962

E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: HTTPS://WWW.CNMIIMPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24-(REPACKAGED)

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 16, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24-REPACKAGED)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

FREDERICK PANGELINAN
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI Government

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950

Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962

Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 09, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 06, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$200.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR PROPOSAL IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "GENERATORS PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, (RFP-001-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 09, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4808/09 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/08/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
 - Request for CEUs for post-doc courses to count towards CE credits for approval (Dr. George)
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - Total Reviewed = _____ New Application = _____
 - Renewal = _____ Pending = _____
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |

Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

Website: www.cnmiports.com



INVITATION FOR BID PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-017-24

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 (2:00 PM)

"AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING AUGUST 28, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THEIR BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, SERVICE, & REPAIRS, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT & PORT OF SAIPAN, (IFB-017-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., SEPTMEBER 27, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2024

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Richelle Janelle Cabrera Borja (Name of Mother/Father)	FCD PA CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0336
E.J.B.T. (Name(s) of Child(ren))	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Plaintiffs,	
vs.	
Eugenio Naputi Tenorio (Name of Mother/ Father)	
Defendant	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Plaintiff whose address is P.O. Box 7317 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Miss Hong Kong contestants showcase the Marianas

On Sunday, Sept. 15, the winner of Miss Hong Kong Pageant 2024 will be crowned to culminate a months-long journey that has included a televised visit to the Marianas.

Miss HK—for short—is an annual beauty pageant organized by local Hong Kong television station TVB. Over five decades, the pageant has produced some of the biggest stars in Asian entertainment. This year's contestant activities included a trip to destinations including the Marianas, Singapore, Baguio, and Inner Mongolia.

The Marianas was chosen



MVA

Several contestants of the Miss Hong Kong Pageant and pageant alumni visit Ohas Boulangerie and Café on Saipan in July 2024. The visit to the Marianas was part of this year's pageant, which will culminate with the crowning of this year's winner on Sept. 15, 2024, in Hong Kong.

as part of pre-pageant activities for three contestants, Kerry Lo, Qin Jin Wen and

Tracy Chung. Miss HK alums Mayanne Mak and Crystal Fung joined the ladies as they

explored beautiful skies, lush sceneries and crystal-clear waters of the Marianas.

"We're excited for this weekend's Miss Hong Kong Pageant final night, as this year's journey has provided an opportunity for pageant followers to also see some of the best parts of the Marianas through the eyes of the contestants who visited us," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "From our stunning ocean, to our deep culture, to delicious food favorites, and more, it was a diverse itin-

erary that demonstrated the true wealth of our islands. Good luck to all the contestants this weekend!"

The MVA provided marketing support for this collaboration.

Their visit included a tour of scenic and historic sites in Marpi, Seatouch marine animal encounter with stingrays, and sampling of pastries at Ohas Boulangerie and Café and Shirley's Coffee Shop fried rice.

The ladies also spent time with cultural leaders Frances Sablan and Kiki Marciano to experience the indigenous culture of the Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Marianas, mingling with locals and learning dances, crafts, and

cooking. The group also sailed the lagoon in Waa Heragh, a modern replica of an ancient canoe design.

The visit also featured a discovery adventure flying over the island and a dive at award-winning Grotto. A culminating beach BBQ bonfire event was held at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, where the Miss HK delegation enjoyed a night of great food, dancing and music.

Two features of the Marianas visit have garnered nearly 30,000 views on TVB's official YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrrTTToMgO64> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5DkqcEWqKc>. (PR)

EMPOWERING LIFELONG LEARNING

JKPL provides online continuing education through Universal Class

Universal Class is available! Did you know that with your Joeten-Kiyu Public Library card, you have access to more than 600 free lifelong learning courses in over 30 subject areas, many of which offer continuing education units? Course offerings include Microsoft Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Publisher) and Google Docs, Sheets and Slides. Take courses on Cybersecurity, QuickBooks, business, basic finance,

career training, How To/Do It Yourself, Homeschooling, Parenting, Crafts & Hobbies, Alternative Medicine, and many more. Study on your own schedule with real instructors to contact with any questions.

More than 600 courses are available, and all are designed and led by professional instructors to build deeper understanding and mastery of subject matter. Universal Class includes videos, assignments, quizzes, tests, and options for

social media interaction with other learners. Patrons may take multiple classes and learn at their own pace.

Unleash your potential, broaden horizons, and fuel your passions. At Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, we believe in the power of knowledge, and with Universal Class, we are bringing that power directly to you!

Please contact systems librarian Omar T. Manacop at (670) 235-7322/23 (READ) for more information on how

to access this service, or go to www.cnmlib.org.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmlib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, TikTok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joetenkiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmlib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to

offer for our community.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am-4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Closed for JKPL austerity on the following Saturdays: Sept. 14 and 28, 2024

How can you help assist with our programs?

We welcome and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able

to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu

Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-256853-OLS-24.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (PR)

5th Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

Ursula Igitol
Lifofoi Aldan

Lovingly known as
"Ulang" and "Nana"

Invite our relatives and friends to join in prayers as we commemorate our loved one's 5th year in Heaven. Daily mass will be held as follows:

Sep 13, 14, 19, 20	Santa Remedios Parish, 6 PM
Sep 15	Santa Remedios Parish, 8 AM
Sep 16 – 18	San Roque Parish, 6 PM
Sep 21	Santa Remedios Parish, 9:30 AM (special mass)

Thank you for your love and prayers,

Frank "Boy" Aldan and girls

Call for Nominations

2024 GOVERNOR'S HUMANITIES AWARDS

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: SEPTEMBER 23

NOMINATION CATEGORIES


- Research & Publication in the Humanities
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI History
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices
- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities



Scan the QR Code to access our online nomination form! Visit our website at <https://www.nmhcouncil.org/gha> to learn more about our nomination process.



2023 Governor's Humanities Awardees



ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(A-) Kagman III, (B-) Southern (San Antonio), (C-) Tinian

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer

Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate

Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

Opening Date: August 16, 2024

Closing Date: September 15, 2024

Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a \$3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:

- Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:

- Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road

Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III

Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 <http://kagmanchc.org>



MINA Green Gala 2024

📅 Sep 20, 2024 ⌚ 06:00 PM – 10:00 PM

📍 Hibiscus Hall, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan

 facebook.com/MINAPACIFIC

 minaoutreach

 mvariety.com/MINAGreenGala2024



mina

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Empowering Communities for Conservation since 2005

P.O. Box 506645, Gualo Rai Center Ste #103, Saipan MP 96950


(670)233-7333

Precautionary boil water notice for Rota

The island of Rota is currently experiencing elevated turbidity levels due to the heavy rainfall, prompting the issuance of a precautionary boil water notice yesterday, Sept. 12, 2024 *(See additional information on this article)*.

In response, CUC Rota operators have initiated a flushing of the distribution system and are actively monitoring both turbidity and residual chlorine levels throughout the water system. CUC will continue the main source of water supply to customers and will keep customers informed of the progress.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at (670) 236-4333 or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. *(PR)*



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Mercantile Capital Corporation dba LJ's 1

THE POSITION: Airconditioning and Refrigeration Technician

NUMBER OF JOB OPENINGS: 1

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Repair or replace parts for commercial air conditioning and refrigeration units and other appliances, such as, wiring, motors, pumps, switches, lights, fans, and thermostats; Inspect and test air conditioning systems to ensure they are working properly; Check the contactors, start/run capacitors and the condenser fan motor; Ensure that standards are being complied with and procedures and policies are being followed; Maintain a safe area; Use electrical equipment to test for continuity of circuits and components; Responsible for arranging cooling and refrigeration systems for the business; and Read blue prints to ensure proper placement and installation of ductwork and pipes.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least high school graduate.


WORK EXPERIENCE: Must have a minimum of 24 months of relevant work experience as a Refrigeration and Airconditioning Technician.

JOB LOCATION: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail comprehensive resume and supporting credentials to:

YEOW CHUE CHUA
Vice-President
MERCANTILE CAPITAL CORPORATION

Office Address: Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 505440, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone Number: (670) 234-3813
Email Address: ljsupermarket123@gmail.com; 168chua@gmail.com



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-021

AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT and AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project** consists of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in 540 calendar days from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Radewagen leads oversight hearing examining implementation of COFA



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) makes statements and questions during the Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs' oversight hearing on the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 last Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) last Tuesday led the Natural Resources Committee's Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs' oversight hearing on the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024.

Radewagen said, "Congress' timely passage of the COFA Amendments Act and successful renewal of the COFA agreements speaks to the U.S. commitment to preserving our special relationship with our FAS allies and to countering the malignant activities of the CCP; however, there is still more left to be done. The U.S. must remain committed to following through on obligations promised under the COFA Amendments Act."

"I am therefore gravely concerned to see that there are several key provisions of the COFA Amendments Act that have not been implemented in a timely manner consistent with the clearly expressed intent of Congress and agreements signed by the President," she continued. "Oversight and accountability will ensure that the COFA agreements continue to serve as the pillar of our relationship with the FAS for the decades to come, signaling to the region that the U.S. remains a reliable and committed partner."

Congress successfully passed the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 in March 2024 and is conducting oversight on the implementation of the new agreement.

Tuesday's hearing focused on the administration's urgent need to carry out several key unfulfilled provisions of the COFA Amendments Act, including delivering veterans'



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) speaks with witnesses for the hearing.

services for the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Citizens of these three countries serve in the U.S. Armed Forces and enlist at higher rates per capita than any U.S. state—much like American Samoa is known for record enlistment rates.

The administration has yet to transmit a new signed Federal Programs and Services Agreement with the Republic of Palau, even as the current FPSA expires on Sept. 30, 2024. Additionally, the administration has not completed FPSA negotiations with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

In addition, the administration must formally convene the Interagency Group authorized by Congress to improve interagency coordination and communication on COFA implementation. As Tuesday's hearing made clear, implementing the COFA agreements is vital to maintaining the United States' partnership with its allies in the Indo-Pacific and deterring the Chinese Communist Party's increasing aggression in the region.

The hearing allowed members to hear directly from administration officials how the Biden-Harris administration plans to address and end delays in these important responsibilities under the COFA Amendments Act of 2024. The Subcommittee also heard from the FAS Ambassadors to the U.S. on the necessity of these services and prompt implementation.

Witnesses included: Hersey Kyota, ambassador to the United States, Republic of Palau; Jackson Soram, ambassador to the United States, Federated States of Micronesia; and Charles Paul, ambassador to the United States, Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Separately, the committee questioned Taylor Ruggles, senior advisor for COFA implementation, U.S. Department of State; John Brewer, director, Office of Insular and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior; Anka Lee, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for East Asia, U.S. Department of Defense; and Dr. Miguel LaPuz, special assistant to the deputy under secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (PR)

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Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Ukraine needs both more weapons and the permission to use them

Although President Joe Biden's administration has pledged "unwavering support" for Ukraine, it has been cautious to a fault in practice. The latest example: supplying the Ukrainians with sophisticated long-range missiles but prohibiting their most effective uses.

Since last year, the West has been sending Ukraine British and French long-range missiles, as well as the more versatile U.S.-supplied Army Tactical Missile System, known as ATACMS. Such munitions have proved effective in hitting military facilities in Crimea and elsewhere in occupied Ukraine. Yet the Biden administration has vetoed their use inside Russia itself.

To an extent, this caution is understandable. Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that attacks within Russia would amount to an escalation, and Biden is rightly keen to avoid World War III. Yet a closer analysis of the policy shows that it makes little sense. If Biden wants to help bring this war to an acceptable ending—and he should—he needs to stop vacillating and give Ukraine the arms it needs to defend itself.

For one thing, the restrictions on long-range weapons play directly into Putin's hands. They create a zone of safety from which Russian troops can launch attacks with impunity. They buy time for the Kremlin to adjust to changes on the battlefield and resupply its own forces while preventing Ukraine from effectively counterattacking. They also amplify Russia's advantages in manpower and weaponry. In effect, they give Ukraine enough help to prolong the war but not enough to make real progress.

The flaws of this policy were laid bare when Kharkiv came under intense attack earlier this year from forces gathered just across the border. This led the Biden administration to carve out an exception to the rule, allowing Ukraine to strike military targets just inside Russia to thwart attacks. The result was that the offensive was much diminished as Russia scrambled to defend its assets. But while tactically successful, this experiment also highlighted how strategically misguided the larger policy is.

It makes little sense to keep tying Ukraine's hands. There are, by conservative estimates, hundreds of military targets—including communications centers, training grounds and air bases from which attacks are being launched or resupplied—that long-range missiles could target. Even if Putin moves many out of reach, he can't protect all such targets, and their removal would provide Ukraine more protection and greater warning time.

Of course, Putin's dark threats of nuclear escalation shouldn't be ignored. He has repeatedly warned the West about "red lines," from the supply of battle tanks to aircraft, only to downplay them once they've been crossed. That's entirely logical: The use of tactical nuclear weapons would be a strategic mistake for Putin, giving him no clear battlefield advantage, galvanizing the West and likely losing remaining support from Beijing. And there's little reason to think that long-range missiles—which, remember, have already been

See UKRAINE on Page 11



Putin's 'troll farm' isn't necessary. We've got our own

When it comes to disinformation warfare, Russian President Vladimir Putin is, of course, a pro. As a career KGB agent, it's what he knows and what he does. That point was again underscored by the recent U.S. Department of Justice case alleging a systematic Russian effort to interfere in November's presidential election.

That did happen in 2016, but it's 2024. By now you have to ask why Putin bothers—given the industrial quantities of homegrown disinformation we're producing ourselves—and just how much attention we should be paying to his so-called active measures.

The DoJ's 277-page affidavit alleges that Russia has been running a broad, covert election interference project called Doppelganger, and as a result has shut down dozens of websites traced back to the country. All of this was being organized in meetings at the presidential administration in Moscow, better known as the Kremlin. According to notes taken during these meetings, at least some were presided over by Putin's first deputy chief of staff, Sergey Kiriyenko.

It's hard to overstate Kiriyenko's centrality to the Kremlin. A one-time liberal, he's now the point man for Putin's domestic political strategy, including the recent presidential elections, as well as for digital media and for administration of the four Ukrainian regions that Putin unilaterally annexed to Russia on Sept. 30, 2022. He's deeply loyal, runs the Russian association for Putin's beloved martial arts, and is a close ally of Yuri Kovalchuk, the billionaire often described as "Putin's banker."

And just for the avoidance of doubt, the meeting notes that the U.S. somehow got hold of—and which I assume to be genuine—confirm that a report on Doppelganger's progress was sent to Putin himself. The Kremlin denies the existence of Doppelganger.

According to the DoJ's case, Doppelganger directed troll farms to write comments on posts, as well as to produce fake articles under fake or forged bylines, often on fake websites made to mimic those of U.S. and European flagship media outlets.

The goals laid out include not just influencing the next U.S. election, but also undermining public support for the defense of Ukraine and discrediting the U.S., U.K. and NATO in general. A project called "International Conflict Incitement" aimed to stir up existing domestic conflicts within U.S. allies or to "artificially create" new ones. One enthusiastic suggestion recorded by the Kremlin meeting's notetaker was to: "make a fake on an American soldier that raped a German woman. That would be great!"

There's detailed written guidance for the troll farms on what messages to push, as well as quotas for them to meet—60,000 comments per month for Germany and France combined. And there's astute advice for those less steeped in the ways of disinformation "to use a minimum of fake news and a maximum of realistic information."

But Putin's obsession with disinformation displays a weak-

By MARC CHAMPION

Bloomberg Opinion

Marc Champion is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering Europe, Russia and the Middle East. He was previously Istanbul bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal.



ness. It reflects his deeply held belief that voters and populations as a whole have no thoughts or agency of their own; that their attitudes are instead the products of manipulation, either by his own special services and other branches of the state—especially within Russia, where the Kremlin exercises tight control over traditional and social media—or by foreign agencies, such as the CIA.

So, when more than a million Ukrainians took to the streets in 2013-2014, spending months outdoors in subzero temperatures and often under brutal police attack to protest, this was not—in Putin's view—an expression of popular will, but a coup d'état orchestrated by the CIA. That same misconception led him to believe the local population wouldn't fight back when he launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine eight years later. It was a catastrophic error.

The sad truth is that by now Putin can probably save himself some money. When you have the likes of Donald Trump, Elon Musk or the U.K.'s Nigel Farage to stir up social conflict and amplify disinformation in the name of free speech, who needs operation Doppelganger?

Twitter alone publishes about 6 billion posts a month, a third of them political, dwarfing the quotas set for Russia's troll factories. And while it's hard to quantify how many of those posts consist of deliberate falsehoods, several studies have found that fake news gets shared more on social media—70% more, according to one by Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers.

Russian interference operations are real, but these are our own problems. Our homegrown websites, talk show hosts and bloggers are now churning out more fake news, conspiracy theories and incitement to violence than Russia could ever hope to invent.

This kind of disinformation is so filled with malice that it's comforting to think of it as a foreign plot. When riots erupted in the U.K. town of Southport in July, over the stabbing of six-year-old girls at a Taylor Swift-themed yoga and dance class, a fabricated story gave the attacker an Arabic sounding name and said he had come to Britain by boat, as an illegal immigrant the previous year. The story spread like wildfire. It was passed on by far-right U.K. sites, political parties and influencers—as well as

See PUTIN on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We must give students a mental health lifeline for the school year

As students return to school, it's crucial to recognize the invisible struggles they may be facing, especially after the summer break. Navigating new academic and social environments can intensify mental health challenges or even trigger new ones.

Providing students with tools and emotional literacy to support one another and address feelings of loneliness is vital to building a culture of care and resilience that can genuinely make a long-lasting difference in their well-being.

The reality is stark: Youth suicide rates have risen steadily over the last 15 years and are currently the second leading cause of death for children ages 10 to 14 and the third for those ages 15 to 24. These statistics are more than just numbers—they're deeply personal to me.

When my older brother, Brian, died by suicide at 22, it was a shock to my whole family. We didn't know how deeply his loneliness and mental health struggles ran. His story is not unique; millions silently battle similar challenges, feeling isolated by the stigma surrounding mental health. This stigma deprived him of the support he needed — support that could have saved my brother's life.

Young adults are most likely to turn to a friend first when struggling with their mental health, yet 70% of peers do not feel prepared to provide support. This school year, let's remind the young people in our lives that they don't need to be experts to provide support and create safe spaces for those they care about. Peer-based emotional support is not about solving someone's problems; it's about creating an environment in which emotions can be openly shared and help can be

sought without fear of judgment.

The need for such safe spaces is urgent. More than one-fifth of high school students have seriously considered suicide. In college, nearly 30% of students report severe psychological distress associated with an increasing feeling of loneliness. Now more than ever, youths need safe spaces to express their feelings, establish support systems and build emotional literacy within their communities.

Emotional support has a profound impact on mental health. With the proper knowledge, young people can be powerful agents for change. Peer-led organizations such as Active Minds illustrate how student networks can break down mental health stigma and build trust and respect within their communities. We've seen how these systems educate students about mental health awareness, decrease stigma and increase helping behaviors that establish a solid foundation for a supportive network.

Since half of all mental health issues begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24—critical years when connections among peers are strongest—these relationships can offer crucial lifelines. To prepare students for the new school year, they need resources to guide their mental health throughout the year. By consistently checking in, offering a safe space and maintaining open communication, youths can help peers who might be struggling.

As we work to create safe spaces for all students, it's essential to recognize that not all challenges are experienced equally. Social stigma is a significant barrier to mental health care, but it disproportionately affects communities of color, where preconceived notions and biases create substantial obstacles to receiving appropriate support.

By **ALISON MALMON**

Chicago Tribune

Alison Malmom is the founder and executive director of Active Minds, a nonprofit organization that supports mental health awareness and education for the next generation.



Black Americans are 20% more likely to experience mental health challenges and face a higher risk of suicide compared with members of other racial groups. Despite this, Black college students are statistically less likely to receive a mental health diagnosis. To address this disparity, targeted support and culturally responsive resources are essential in ensuring that all young people, regardless of their background, feel recognized, supported and encouraged to seek the help they need.

With students heading back to school, it's vital to prioritize mental health discussions, especially as 67% of young adults with mental health symptoms won't receive the care they need. We can foster a culture of care and resilience by equipping students with skills such as emotional literacy, active listening and validation.

Mobilizing young people to lead these conversations addresses immediate needs and paves the way for lasting change. Let's use this new school year as an opportunity to ensure every student feels supported, valued and prepared to make a difference.

Do you remember what politics were like without Donald Trump? My students don't

Every year, I ask my political science students, "What is your earliest political memory?"

I pose the question to figure out what political and cultural moments have shaped them. Over the years, their answers have served mainly to help me think about the mix of perspectives in my classroom. But lately my students' responses have made me rethink modern American politics.

Why? Because most of my students cannot remember a politics without Donald Trump at its center. Only a few can remember Barack Obama's second inauguration, in 2012, and only vaguely.

This has serious implications for their political identities—and the nation's.

Most of today's college students are 18 to 22 years old, so they were 9 to 13 when Trump elbowed his way onto the political stage in 2015. Having come of age in the Trump era, they think about politics very differently from the rest of us.

With both parties aggressively courting Gen Z voters, this could have a radical effect on the coming election. And it should have older voters thinking differently too.

One major difference among age groups is that these young voters barely knew the pre-MAGA Republican Party. Trump can still feel like an aberration to those of us who are older—a singular figure who hijacked the "true" GOP and remade it in his own image.

That makes it possible for many MAGA-hating "Never Trumpers," for example, to keep calling themselves Republi-

cans. Groups such as the Lincoln Project, websites such as the Dispatch and politicians such as former Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger offer some of the most articulate and uncompromising anti-Trump takes. Most of these arguments come from folks of a certain age who still identify, in their hearts, as Republicans.

But for young voters, the idea of a different kind of Republican Party might as well be historical fiction. It feels as distant from them as the Whigs or the Federalists—a story that took place a long time ago in an America far, far away.

Even my students with traditionally Republican and conservative beliefs struggle to think of themselves as Republicans. They prefer to be known as independents, Libertarians or even Democrats.

Those who do call themselves Republicans do so because of Trump. As polls have repeatedly shown, the young people who support the former president are also overwhelmingly men.

This shift in perception is one reason it might be harder to de-MAGA-fy the Republican Party than a lot of Never Trumpers hope. Even when Trump finally departs the political scene on that golden escalator to the great beyond, he will have redefined the word "Republican" for a generation in a way that will be hard to undo.

My students have made me look at Democrats differently too. Those of us with pre-MAGA memories may compare the vibes and memes around the Harris-Walz ticket to the energy of Obama's first presidential campaign. But most of today's

and red lines clear. Western forces should not be deployed to fight in Ukraine, and the use of Western weapons against civilian targets within Russia should be proscribed. But granting Ukraine greater freedom to bring the fight to Putin makes both strategic and moral sense, putting pressure on Russia's overstretched forces and its economy while giving Ukraine more means for its self-defense and better leverage for negotiations.

Violent anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim protests continued for days after the court gave the perpetrator's true identity, as a 17-year-old, U.K.-born Christian.

There's no hard evidence Russia set that fire, though no doubt the officials heading Drogopole would be celebrating if so. What's certain is that Putin believes himself to be in a zero-sum

By **SUSAN MCWILLIAMS BARNDT**

Los Angeles Times

Susan McWilliams Barndt is a politics professor at Pomona College.



college-age voters were toddlers when Obama began promising "change you can believe in."

For them, the Harris-Walz campaign's positive momentum is far more than an echo of an earlier campaign. It's a totally new way of thinking about politics—a revelation that elections can be about possibility. These vibes are different for them. And they are huge.

For the first time, many college-age voters are experiencing the joy and excitement that can come from joining others, sometimes in person, and committing to a shared vision of a better world. That is not a feeling that dissipates. It is a major driver of participation and action, as we're seeing not just on TikTok but also in voter registration numbers.

So when people my age say Kamala Harris' good vibes can't last until the election, I acknowledge that might be true—for people my age.

But for the youngest voters in this election, those vibes might actually represent the deeper, seismic rumblings of a generation on the move. And I'm not so certain they will go away before this election, or even after it.

Gen Z voters hardly remember what came before Trump. Soon it may be harder to remember American politics without them.

It's reasonable to expect Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to articulate how this latest round of assistance will fit into a plausible strategy to bring an end to the war closer. (He has promised to do so later this month.) But only Putin ultimately has the power to end the vast destruction and killing he has unleashed. He must be convinced that that is his best option.

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UKRAINE

From page 10

supplied and used within Russian-occupied Ukraine—will be any different.

The Biden administration is right to make its own interests






PUTIN

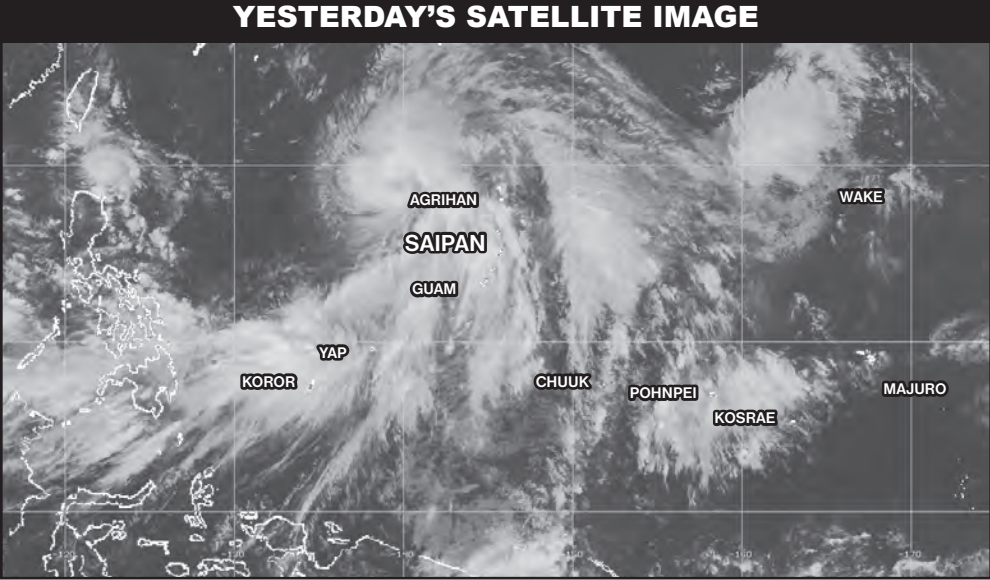
From page 10

by a website called Channel3Now that appeared to have Pakistani and Russian connections and has since been shut down.

conflict with the West, and sees both free-speech protections and the democratic process of choosing leaders as vulnerabilities he can exploit. But let's not make the same mistake as an aging Cold War spy, believing our chaos and dysfunction are in any significant respect the work of the Kremlin. He's just egging us on and enjoying the show.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Cloudy. Widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with widespread showers. Isolated thunderstorms. south winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms.		Cloudy with widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms.		Cloudy with widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms.	
85°	79°	85°	79°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 9:07 AM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds will slowly diminish within the Marianas and surrounding waters, from 20 to 30 mph today to between 10 and 20 mph by Saturday. Combined seas of 9 to 12 feet today will subside to between 7 and 9 feet by Friday. This is still a little above normal, it will take until at least next Tuesday to restore normalcy. Will issue a wind advisory for today to address likely high winds and gusts in showers, or when sunlight breaks the inversion. If there is a second round of Tropical Cyclone genesis, which is a possibility, that could delay our return to normalcy until at least Thursday. Delay travel by boat if at all possible until next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy/Wind	85° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:44 AM	2:24 PM
Saturday	-	1:45 AM	3:19 PM
Sunday	-	2:47 AM	4:10 PM
Monday	-	3:50 AM	4:58 PM
Tuesday	-	4:52 AM	5:43 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18				1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

New Mirage Spa celebrates Paseo de Marianas opening to vehicular traffic

By MARK RABAGO

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

New Mirage Spa has a new massage package to celebrate the opening of Paseo de Marianas to vehicular traffic.

Owner Lin Ming is offering a 1-hour foot massage or body massage for just \$25 that includes an extra 10 minutes of free head massage or foot massage.

Similarly, New Mirage Spa is also offering a 1-hour body oil massage or hot stone massage for \$30 that comes with a 10-minute foot massage on the house. Both packages come with the free use of the massage parlor's shower facilities.

Ming said with the opening of the once strip mall Paseo de Marianas to traffic, she is expecting more business from tourists and locals alike. She said she wants to commemorate the occasion by offering the aforementioned promotions to those sorely in need of relaxation through their soothing massages.

New Mirage Spa reopened under new management last May 18. Ming earlier said they opened/reopened the new/old massage establishment following the return of regular Hong Kong Airlines flights to Saipan.

The massage parlor boasts of seven well-appointed massage rooms with 16 massage beds in total. Aside from the comfy and elegant interior that includes a spacious area where you can relax and get free tea, New Mirage Spa also has six well-trained masseuses.

Apart from the aforementioned massage packages,



MARK RABAGO

New Mirage Spa is located along Paseo de Marianas across ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan.

New Mirage Spa's regular massage menu includes foot massage (\$25 for 1 1/2 hours), full body massage (\$25 for 1 hour and \$35 for 1 1/2 hours), Acupoint massage (\$25 for 1 hour and \$35 for 1 1/2 hours), and sunburn care and seaweed body pack (\$25 for 1 hour and \$35 for 1 1/2 hours). The latter is especially made to cater to tourists who had a full day at the beach.

And since Ming also owns Night Scent Restaurant just

around the corner along Coral Tree Avenue, frequent diners will get discounts at New Mirage Spa and vice versa. Currently, New Mirage Spa also has a loyalty stamp card where 10 massages get you a free 1-hour massage.

New Mirage Spa is located along the former Paseo de Marianas across ABC Store in the tourist district of Garapan. It's open from Sunday to Saturday, 12pm-2am. For more information, call (670) 233-4137.



MARK RABAGO

New Mirage Spa is open from Sunday to Saturday, 12pm-2am.

US inflation reaches a 3-year low as Federal Reserve prepares to cut interest rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—The post-pandemic spike in U.S. inflation eased further last month as year-over-year price increases reached a three-year low, clearing the way for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates and likely shaping the economic debate in the final weeks of the presidential race.

Wednesday's report from the Labor Department showed that consumer prices rose 2.5% in August from a year earlier, down from 2.9% in July. It was the fifth straight annual drop and the smallest since February 2021. From July to August, prices rose just 0.2%.

Excluding volatile food and

energy costs, so-called core prices rose 3.2% in August from a year ago, the same as in July. On a month-to-month basis, core prices rose 0.3%, a slight pickup from July's 0.2% increase. Economists closely watch core prices, which typically provide a better read of future inflation trends.

"Today's report will add to confidence within the Fed that inflation is indeed on a sustainable path towards 2%," the Fed's target level, Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics, wrote in a note to clients.

For months, cooling inflation has provided gradual relief to America's consumers,

who were stung by the price surges that erupted three years ago, particularly for food, gas, rent and other necessities. Inflation peaked in mid-2022 at 9.1%, the highest rate in four decades.

And Americans' paychecks have risen steadily for the past three years. Overall incomes have even outpaced inflation for roughly the past 18 months, helping more households handle elevated prices. On Tuesday, the Census Bureau reported that the median inflation-adjusted household income rose 4% last year to above \$80,000, essentially matching the 2019 peak.

Nation

9/11 anniversary brings Biden, Harris, Trump at ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—With presidential candidates looking on, some 9/11 victims' relatives appealed to them Wednesday for accountability as the U.S. marked an anniversary laced with election-season politics.

In a remarkable tableau, President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris stood together at ground zero just hours after Trump and Harris faced off in their first-ever debate. Trump and Biden—the successor whose inauguration Trump

skipped—shook hands, and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg appeared to facilitate a handshake between Harris and Trump.

Then the campaign rivals stood only a few feet (meters) apart, Biden and Bloomberg between them, as the hourslong reading of victims' names began. At Trump's side was his running mate, Sen. JD Vance.

The image was one of putting politics aside at this year's solemn commemoration of the hijacked-plane attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001. But some victims' relatives, after reading out names, delivered political messages of their own.

"We are pleading for your help, but you ignore us," Allison Walsh-DiMarzio said, directly challenging Trump and Harris to press Saudi Arabia about any official involvement in the attacks. Most of the 19 hijackers were Saudi, but the kingdom denies it was behind their plot.

"Which one of you will have the courage to be our hero? We deserve better," Walsh-DiMarzio said. She's a daughter of 9/11 victim Barbara P. Walsh, an administrative assistant.

Joanne Barbara was one of multiple readers who spoke out against a now-revoked plea deal that military prosecutors struck with alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two fellow defendants.

"It has been 23 years, and the families deserve justice and accountability," said the widow of Assistant Fire Chief Gerard A. Barbara.

Biden, on his last Sept. 11 in office, and Harris paid respects Wednesday at all three 9/11 attack sites: ground

zero, the Pentagon and a rural part of Pennsylvania.

The president, vice president—and, separately, Trump—laid wreaths Wednesday afternoon at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Biden and Harris spoke with victims' relatives and visited the local fire department; Trump and Vance went to a New York City firehouse earlier in the day.

The Flight 93 memorial stands where one of the hijacked planes crashed after

crew members and passengers tried to storm the cockpit. Trump described the site as an "incredible place" in brief remarks from afar to reporters.

The attacks killed 2,977 people and left thousands of bereaved relatives and scarred survivors. The planes took down the World Trade Center's twin towers and carved a gash in the Pentagon, the U.S. military headquarters, where Biden and Harris laid a red, white and blue wreath Wednesday afternoon.

Harris, Trump jockeying for battleground states after their debate faceoff

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are making a beeline for swing states that they hope to flip in their favor this year, both of them trying to expand their narrow paths to victory in a closely fought presidential campaign.

Harris has her sights set on North Carolina, where she's scheduled to hold rallies in Charlotte and Greensboro on Thursday, her first political event after she buoyed supporters with her commanding performance in Tuesday's debate.

Trump is heading west to Tucson, Arizona, as he looks to stabilize his campaign, which continues to struggle to recalibrate nearly two months after Harris replaced President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket. Although Harris' team said she's willing to do another debate, the Republican candidate has waffled.

"Are we going to do a rematch?" Trump said Wednesday. "I just don't know."

The candidates are barnstorming one day after they marked the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, a somber occasion that provided little respite from partisan politics in a high-speed campaign season.

At a fire station in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, close to where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed after passengers fought back against their hijackers, Trump posed for photos with children who wore campaign shirts.

One of the shirts proclaimed former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Biden and Harris were "dumb and dumber and dumbest."

Biden and Harris visited the same fire station earlier in the day. Someone there offered Biden a red-white-and-blue baseball hat that said "Trump 2024," and suggested the president put it on to demonstrate his commitment to bipartisan unity. Biden briefly put it on and flashed a wide grin.

Only a handful of battleground states will decide the outcome of the election.

Democrats haven't won North Carolina's electoral votes since 2008, when President Barack Obama was elected for the first time. However, Trump's 2020 margin of victory of 1.3 percentage points was his narrowest win of any state that year, and Democrats hope that North Carolina's growing and diversifying population will give them an edge this time.

Harris' campaign said Thursday's trip will be her ninth to the state this year, and recent polls show a tight race. More than two dozen combined campaign offices—supporting Harris and the rest of the party's candidates—have been opened, and popular Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper is one of her top surrogates.

Republicans have been confident about Trump's chances in the state, and the former president held rallies there in August.

World

DURING DIPLOMATS' VISIT TO KYIV

US, UK pledge almost \$1.5B to help Ukraine

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The United States and Britain pledged nearly \$1.5 billion in additional aid to Ukraine on Wednesday during a visit to Kyiv by their top diplomats as Ukrainian officials renewed their pleas to use Western-provided missiles against targets deeper inside Russia.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced more than \$700 million in humanitarian aid, while British Foreign Secretary David Lammy confirmed that his country would provide another \$782 million in assistance and loan guarantees. Much of the effort was aimed at bolstering the energy grid that Russia has repeatedly pounded ahead of an expected difficult winter.

Blinken and Lammy traveled together to the Ukrainian capital on a rare joint tour to underscore their commitment to the country in its war. Air-raid sirens sounded repeatedly during the visit, causing delays in their schedule and forcing them to cancel a wreath-laying ceremony.

Blinken said he would bring the discussion with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about the missiles "back to Washington to brief the president." Blinken said U.S. President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Britain's Foreign Secretary David Lammy meet with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the Mariinsky Palace in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

er will "no doubt" talk about the issue when they meet Friday in Washington.

"Speaking for the United States, we have adjusted and adapted as needs have changed, as the battlefield has changed. And I have no doubt that we'll continue to do that as this evolves," Blinken told a news conference.

The diplomatic visit unfold-

ed as Russia's bigger and better-equipped army bears down on Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region and conducts aerial attacks on cities across the country using missiles, glide bombs and drones that claim many civilian casualties.

Lammy said the 2 1/2-year conflict is at a "critical" juncture following Ukraine's daring incursion last month into

Russia's Kursk region.

"We convey the deepest condolences for the shocking attacks that we have seen, over the loss of civilian life, particularly women and children—horrific, barbaric, unbelievable," Lammy said.

But relations between Ukraine and its Western partners have been increasingly strained by Kyiv's repeated

appeals for the West's authorization to use long-range weapons from the United States and other allies to strike targets deeper inside Russia.

That issue took on added urgency after Russia's latest reported acquisition of ballistic missiles from Iran, but Western leaders have so far balked at Ukraine's request, fearing that, if granted, it could escalate the war.

Biden has allowed Ukraine to fire U.S.-provided missiles across the border into Russia in self-defense, but has largely limited the distance they can be fired.

Zelenskyy said he hoped for changes to those limitations.

"Let's count on some strong decisions, at least," he said. "For us, it's very important."

He said he hoped to speak to Biden later this month, noting that U.S. military and financial support is crucial.

"We rely heavily on it, and

frankly, we can't prevail without it," Zelenskyy said.

However, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin last week pushed back on the idea that long-range strikes would be a game-changer.

"I don't believe one capability is going to be decisive, and I stand by that comment," Austin said at a meeting of allied military leaders in Germany. The Ukrainians have other means to strike long-range targets, he added.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told Lammy he hoped an agreement on using long-range assets "for strikes on the territory of our enemy" could be reached. "We hope for your help and support in this issue."

A hard winter likely lies ahead for Ukraine. Its power grid is under severe strain after Russian missiles and drones knocked out around 70% of the country's generation capacity.

Israeli airstrikes hit UN school, homes in Gaza kill at least 34 people, hospitals say

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli airstrikes across Gaza overnight and Wednesday hit a U.N. school sheltering displaced Palestinian families as well as two homes, killing at least 34 people, including 19 women and children, hospital officials said. A U.N. official said six staffers were among the dead.

The war in Gaza is now into its 11th month, with tens of thousands of people dead, and international efforts to mediate a cease-fire between Israel and the Hamas militant group have repeatedly stalled as they accuse each other of making additional and unacceptable demands.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli troops launched raids in several towns backed by airstrikes, continuing a crack-down across the territory that the military says is targeting militants but has wrecked neighborhoods and killed civilians. One airstrike killed five people the military said were militants threatening its troops. A second strike on a car killed at least three people, the Pales-

tinian Health Ministry said.

An attacker crashed a fuel truck into a West Bank bus stop near the Israeli settlement of Givat Assaf, killing an Israeli soldier, the military said. Officials said soldiers and an armed civilian "neutralized" the attacker.

The strike on the U.N.'s al-Jaouni Preparatory Boys School in the Nuseirat refugee camp killed at least 14, including two children and a woman, officials from Awda and al-Aqsa Martyrs hospitals said. At least 18 other people were wounded, they said.

The Israeli military said it was targeting Hamas militants planning attacks from inside the school. The claim could not be independently confirmed.

One of the children killed was the daughter of Momin Selmi, a member of Gaza's civil defense agency, which rescues wounded and retrieves bodies after strikes, the agency said.

Gaza's schools are packed with tens of thousands of Palestinians driven from their homes by Israeli offensives

and evacuation orders. The al-Jaouni school, one of many in Gaza run by the U.N. agency for Palestinians, or UNWRA, has been hit by multiple strikes during the war.

UNRWA said six staffers aiding the displaced, including the manager of the shelter, were killed. "Humanitarian staff, premises & operations have been blatantly & unabatedly disregarded since the beginning of the war," the agency's director, Philippe Lazarini, wrote on X.

Israel frequently bombs schools, saying they are being used by Hamas militants. It blames Hamas for civilian casualties from its strikes, saying its fighters base themselves and operate within dense residential neighborhoods.

More than 90% of Gaza's school buildings have been severely or partially damaged in strikes, and more than half the schools housing displaced people have been hit, according to a survey in July by the Education Cluster, a collection of aid groups led by UNICEF and Save the Children.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-Peru president Alberto Fujimori dies at 86

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Alberto Fujimori, whose decade-long presidency began with triumphs righting Peru's economy and defeating a brutal insurgency only to end in a disgrace of autocratic excess that later sent him to prison, has died. He was 86. His death Wednesday in the capital, Lima, was announced by his daughter Keiko Fujimori in a post on X. He had been pardoned in December from his convictions for corruption and responsibility for the murder of 25 people. His daughter said in July that he was planning to run for Peru's presidency for the fourth time in 2026. Fujimori, who governed with an increasingly authoritarian hand in 1990-2000, was pardoned in December from his convictions for corruption and responsibility for the murder of 25 people. His daughter said in July that he was planning to run for Peru's presidency for the fourth time in 2026. The former university president and mathematics professor was the consummate political outsider when he emerged from obscurity to win Peru's 1990 election over writer Mario Vargas Llosa. Over a tumultuous political career, he repeatedly made risky, go-for-broke decisions that alternately earned him adoration and reproach.

Vietnam death toll climbs to 197 as typhoon's aftermath brings flash floods and landslides

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Nearly 200 people have died in Vietnam in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi and more than 125 are missing as flash floods and landslides take their toll, state media reported Thursday. Vietnam's VNExpress newspaper reported that 197 people have died and 128 are still missing, while more than 800 have been injured. The death toll spiked earlier in the week as a flash flood swept away the entire hamlet of Lang Nu in northern Vietnam's Lao Cai province Tuesday. Hundreds of rescue personnel worked tirelessly Wednesday to search for survivors, but as of Thursday morning 53 villagers remained missing, VNExpress reported, while seven more bodies were found, bringing the death toll there to 42. Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit the Southeast Asian country in decades. It made landfall Saturday with winds of up to 149 kph (92 mph). Despite weakening on Sunday, downpours continued and rivers remain dangerously high. The heavy rains also damaged factories in export-focused northern Vietnam's industrial hubs.

Life & Style

Taylor Swift wins big at MTV Video Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift won the biggest award at the MTV Video Music Awards—the trophy for video of the year for “Fortnight,” featuring Post Malone.

In her speech Wednesday night, she talked about her “boyfriend, Travis,” thanking for him for being on set of the music video and cheering her on. Fans rewarded the mention of NFL star Travis Kelce with loud screams.

“Everything this man touches turns to happiness and fun and magic,” she said, before shifting gears to the 2024 Presidential election and instructing her fans who are over 18 to register to vote.

Swift did, however, avoid discussing Kamala Harris’ presidential bid on stage. On Tuesday night, Swift endorsed the vice president, moments after Harris’ debate with former president Donald Trump ended.

Swift took home seven awards, bringing her to a career total of 30. That means she has tied Beyoncé’s record and both



AP
Taylor Swift arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024, at UBS Arena in Elmont, N.Y.

hold the title of most-awarded musician in VMA history.

Swift and Malone also took home the first televised award of the VMAs for best collaboration, handed to them by Flavor Flav and Olympian Jor-

dan Chiles.

Swift started that speech by giving remembrance to everyone who lost their lives and loved ones during 9/11, 23 years ago, before discussing Malone.

“There is a reason Post Malone is everyone in music’s favorite person to collaborate with,” she shifted her attention to him. “It has taken forever for me to get him to stop calling me ma’am.”

Chappell Roan won the MTV Video Music Award for best new artist.

“I dedicate this to all the drag artists who inspire me,” she said in her speech, while wearing chain mail, reading from a written speech in her diary. “And I dedicate this to queer and trans people who run pop. ... Thank you for listening.”

Women dominated the award show, no example greater than an imaginative, medieval set from Roan.

Drag queen Sasha Colby introduced her with “your favorite drag queen’s favorite artist,” a reference to Roan’s now famous Coachella performance, which in turn was inspired by Colby. Real fans no doubt got a kick out of the hyper-referential tidbit.

Roan appeared in armor, shooting a lit crossbow at castle gates that stood behind her, burning them in the process. Her dancers were knights,

battling each other in incredible choreography as she sang her queer pop hit, “Good Luck, Babe.”

The other voice of 2024 pop, Sabrina Carpenter, won the trophy for song of the year for “Espresso.”

“This is really special,” she said in her speech, dedicated to her fans. “And thank you to that me-
espresso.” Earlier in the night, she brought her

summery-pop to the award show, powering through her hit singles “Please Please Please,” “Taste” and “Espresso” while dancing with a moon man and an alien.

Tyla won the best Afro-beats award.

Katy Perry received the Video Vanguard Award, performing an eight-song medley spanning her career: “Roar,” “E.T.,” “California Gurls,” “Teenage Dream,” “I Kissed a Girl,” “Firework,” and “Lifetimes.”

“I did that all on the first day of my period, can you believe it?” she joked after accepting the honor from her partner, Orlando Bloom. “There are so many things that have to align to have a long and successful career as an artist. There are no decade long accidents.”

She also teased a new song, “I’m His, He’s Mine,” featuring DoeChii, which samples the Crystal Waters classic, “Gypsy Woman (La Da Dee La Da Da).”

Previous recipients of the Video Vanguard Award include Shakira, Beyoncé, Minaj, Madonna, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Rihanna and Missy Elliott.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner are divorced and single

A Florida judge has declared Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner divorced and single, signing off on a confidential agreement reached between the two. The Miami-Dade County judge approved the agreement on Friday, one year after the 35-year-old Jonas Brothers singer filed to divorce the 28-year-old “Game of Thrones” and “X Men” actor and five years after the two were married. The split brought a quiet and relatively quick end to a divorce that briefly became acrimonious and looked headed for a

long and ugly custody fight. The documents said that moderated negotiations led to an agreement on splitting assets, spousal support and custody of their two daughters, 4-year-old Willa and 2-year-old Delphine. (AP)

Jon Bon Jovi helps talk woman down from ledge on Nashville bridge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Jon Bon Jovi and a video production assistant persuaded a woman standing on the ledge of a pedestrian bridge in Nashville to come back over the railing to safety.

Police say the encounter happened Tuesday on the Seigenthaler Pedestrian Bridge, which spans the Cumberland River. The Tennessean reported that Bon Jovi was filming a music video on the bridge, which remained open to the public during the shoot. Video that was posted to YouTube but later removed showed the assistant talking to the woman. The Grammy-winning front man slowly approached, waved to the woman and joined in the conversation. Eventually the woman turned around to face the two, and they helped her over the railing to safety. Bon

Jovi talked to the woman and hugged her.

Singer’s lawsuit adds to growing claims against Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs

NEW YORK (AP)—A singer who achieved success in bands put together by Sean “Diddy” Combs has sued the music producer, describing years of psychological and physical abuse, including groping, that she says she suffered as he helped launch her career. With her lawsuit filed Tuesday in Manhattan federal court, Dawn Richard added her voice to those now saying the music mogul

subjected the people around him to an explosive temper, violent threats, and sexually charged and drug-fueled environments as they tried to follow his orders. Richard, who became more widely known after appearing on the MTV reality show “Making the Band,” is suing for unspecified damages as well as millions of dollars in income that she says she was denied. She argues that damages, including punitive, are warranted because she suffered economic harm, physical injury, pain and suffering, and serious psychological and emotional distress.

Couple stunned by discovery of friends’ declared beliefs

DEAR ABBY: We are a male couple celebrating 34 years of partnership. We recently took a cruise, during which we met four straight couples traveling together who welcomed us into their group. It was a pleasant experience, and we were delighted to make friends with whom we anticipated sailing again. In fact, the group booked a future cruise onboard and insisted we join them.

Upon returning home and making the obligatory social media connections, we were stunned to discover extremist views propagated by multiple members of the group, including, but not limited to, dangerous falsehoods about and disparagement of gays. One of them said gays should be banished from society. Our reaction was one of disbelief, given the warmth with which we were treated during the cruise.

With true colors now revealed, we intend to cancel the booking made onboard, but we are at odds as to how or whether to explain the decision. I am angry and ready to rumble, while my pacifist husband says we should let it go. Any insights you can offer will be appreciated.

CONFLICTED AT SEA

DEAR CONFLICTED: Hang onto your temper. You would be within your rights (as well as the parameters of etiquette) to contact the people and ask if they still feel this

way about gay people after the cruise. If the answer is yes, ask why they would invite you and your partner to travel with them again. While you’re at it, express that the comments they posted were untrue, uncalled-for and hurtful, and that you will not travel anywhere with them again.

♦♦♦♦

DEAR ABBY: My next-door neighbor “Hank’s” wife died 2 1/2 years ago. My husband passed away 18 months ago. I would see Hank at church and would always ask how he was doing. I’d also see him sitting outside in his backyard crying and talking to his dogs. So, I decided to occasionally take him whatever I had cooked -- pot roast, meatloaf, etc. His grown kids would come on Saturday to take him out to eat and maybe spend a couple of hours with him. They all work and have their own families.

Hank eventually invited me out to dinner, and we became friends. As soon as his daughter found out we were dating, she put a stop to it. She controls her daddy. Hank and I see each other less and less often now, and she has even found him another woman friend. Hank calls and tells me he misses me and our conversations. Part of me feels like moving on. The other part wants to continue our friendship. Any advice will be appreciated.

THWARTED IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR THWARTED: I don’t know what it is about you that Hank’s daughter doesn’t like or finds threatening. You won’t know unless you ask Hank. While you are at it, tell him you miss him, too, and would like to continue seeing him. You and Hank are both adults and should be able to see each other if you both wish.

♦♦♦♦

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 '60s chic
4 Roman
650
7 Stranger, slangily
12 Jurist
Fortas
13 Coach
Par-seghian
14 Brown shade
15 Science room
16 Basic seasoning
18 Big bird of Australia
19 Sidestep
20 Pre-college exams
22 Gallery display
23 Ready for harvest
27 Lynx, for one
29 Prolific inventor
31 Turning point
34 Gawked at
35 Canyon come-backs
37 Wildebeest

DOWN

1 Bulls and rams
2 44th U.S. president
3 Opening night
4 Info
5 Necktie
6 Partner of paris
7 Regretted
8 Early hrs.
9 Cagers' gp.
10 Costa
11 Leftover bit
17 Low-calorie
21 Ske-daddle
23 Construct
24 Oahu or Maui (Abbr.)
45 Small fastener
46 Corvette roof option
48 Texter's "Wow!"
49 Neither here — there
50 Hosp. area
51 Resistance unit

25 "The Raven" writer
26 Finale
28 Chowd down
30 Mafia boss
31 Vigor
32 "Rocks"
33 Pre-DVD format
36 Dines
37 Net defender in hockey
40 Dorm alternatives
42 Stag
43 Apollo's birthplace
44 Canary snacks
45 Small fastener
46 Corvette roof option
48 Texter's "Wow!"
49 Neither here — there
50 Hosp. area
51 Resistance unit

Solution time: 25 mins.

PER BAGS SPAM
ATA ECOL ORSO
RASCALLY NOEL
FOI FLYAWAY
ORIOLE YET
DOE EMP SAMRA
ESSO TUB SAUL
SATES GUS SNL
DIM STICKY
LIMITED ACA
ASAP HONDURAS
OAHU TONI ALI
SKIS AREA SPA

Yesterday's answer 9-13

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lili Reinhart, 28; Ben Savage, 44; Jean Smart, 73; Jacqueline Bisset, 80.

Happy Birthday: Put your heart and soul into what makes you happy and you'll thrive this year. Socialize, join in and participate in events and activities that connect you to fascinating people. Expand your interests, mind and goals, and make life changes that set you up for success. Don't give up; manifest what you want and realize your dreams. Trust in yourself and push forward with confidence. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 29, 33, 37, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be imaginative, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Get the facts, and don't buy into something that lacks substance. You may desire change, but it must be beneficial before you act. Learn from experience, and don't settle for less than what you want. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your talents, skills and expertise to access something new and exciting. Look at what's available and reach out to see if something that interests you is a good fit. Change is within reach, and so is the chance to raise your income, reputation or prospects. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be overwhelmed if you take on too much. Pick and choose what interests you most, and refrain from falling short and feeling stressed. You owe it to yourself to engage in personal growth and self-improvement, and to decide what matters and is meaningful to you. Romance is favored. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Check facts and figures. Do a thorough investigation of a proposal you receive, regardless of how convincing it is. You may be craving a change or a new beginning, but you are best to

sit tight unless it feels right. Focus on looking and feeling your best. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Doors may open, but you may need help to take advantage. Refrain from acting prematurely or making promises you cannot fulfill. Consider what is possible and what will contribute to something you aspire to achieve. Be open to suggestions, but don't back yourself into a corner. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Invest in what makes you happy. Stop denying yourself the opportunity to explore the possibilities. Put your energy where it counts and offers you peace of mind and reassurance that you can move forward. Adjust, compromise and make your dreams come true. Don't get angry; get moving. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't jeopardize your health, emotional well-being or domestic situation. It's essential to give yourself enough breathing room to figure out what's best for you and how to make the most of what you have. A chance to experience or learn something new will help you gain clarity. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are in a better position than you realize. Consider your long-term plan and contact someone to help you reach your objective. Pay attention to detail but add innovative ideas that will motivate others to get involved in helping you achieve your goal. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Only share your plans with someone you trust. Focus on something you enjoy doing, or sign up to participate in a challenge that stimulates you. Explore the possibility of spending more time with someone who enjoys the same pastimes. A proposal looks promising, and romance is favored. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Count your pennies and review your investments. Reviewing your assets will give you the confidence to make changes to improve your life. Start the process, ease stress and engage in activities and pastimes that encourage better physical health and emotional well-being. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more time, money and effort into being your best. A new look, educational pursuit or better money management will pay off. Look at your surroundings and adjust whatever is necessary to accommodate what you want to pursue. Home improvement and joint ventures will encourage success. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't go overboard, even if someone tempts you. Indulgent behavior or overspending will leave you in a vulnerable position. Put your energy into something that offers a positive return. Physical activity will ease stress and give you the clarity you need to make better choices. *****

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, thorough and forceful. You are intense and passionate.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	9		1				8	
7	3	5					9	
							6	7
	6					8		
8		7	3					
				7	2			4
		8	9	1				6
	7			3			1	
		1			6			2

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/13

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	7	2	5	4	1	3	6	8
4	8	1	3	2	6	7	9	5
3	5	6	7	9	8	1	4	2
7	9	3	1	6	5	8	2	4
2	6	4	9	8	3	5	1	7
8	1	5	2	7	4	6	3	9
5	4	9	6	1	7	2	8	3
6	2	7	8	3	9	4	5	1
1	3	8	4	5	2	9	7	6

Difficulty: ★★

9/12

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ANGLERFISH Solution: 8 letters

K	C	A	L	B	R	O	T	C	A	R	T	O	R	P
C	A	P	P	E	N	D	A	G	E	N	I	P	S	R
A	R	F	F	O	O	D	I	O	T	A	R	E	C	E
B	N	L	E	Y	E	R	P	E	L	A	G	I	C	D
P	I	O	A	M	A	T	I	N	G	G	F	T	R	A
M	V	A	V	B	R	A	A	E	S	P	E	E	D	T
U	O	T	R	L	L	O	N	S	G	R	A	L	F	O
H	R	I	A	U	F	E	E	T	E	M	C	E	R	R
S	O	N	L	B	I	L	B	E	E	S	S	O	A	E
I	U	G	R	N	N	A	F	R	L	N	E	S	G	T
F	S	O	A	O	I	S	S	I	A	B	N	T	I	A
K	W	E	I	T	S	P	A	W	N	B	U	A	L	W
N	C	T	N	O	I	B	M	Y	S	H	O	E	A	
O	O	B	O	N	Y	W	O	R	L	D	W	I	D	E
M	A	T	U	R	I	T	Y	Y	R	O	S	N	E	S

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Antennae, Appendage, Bait, Barbel, Black, Bony, Brown, Bulb, Carnivorous, Ceratoid, Deep Sea, Double, Dreamers, Eggs, Esca, Fins, Floating, Food, Fragile, Humpback, Larvae, Mating, Maturity, Monkfish, Motionless, Ocean, Pelagic, Predator, Prey, Protractor, Reefs, Seawater, Sensory, Spawn, Spine, Symbiont, Teleost, Worldwide

Yesterday's Answer: Submission

For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Mets score 6 in 9th to break up no-hitter vs. Blue Jays, 6-2



TORONTO (AP)—Francisco Lindor

broke up Bowden Francis' no-hit bid with a tying homer leading off the ninth inning, Francisco Alvarez added a three-run shot and the New York Mets scored six times in their last at-bat to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-2 on Wednesday.

New York entered tied with Atlanta for the final National League wild card. The Braves were set to play at Washington on Wednesday night.

With the crowd of 29,399 on their feet to start the ninth, Francis got ahead of Lindor 0-2 before the four-time All-Star drilled a 92 mph fastball 398 feet to right field for his 31st home run.

It was the second time in four starts Francis lost a no-hitter on a leadoff homer in the ninth — Taylor Ward connected off the right-hander for the Los Angeles Angels on Aug. 24.

Francis became the first pitcher to lose two no-hit bids in the ninth inning during one season since Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan with Texas in 1989.

PIRATES 3, MARLINS 1
PITTSBURGH (AP)—Pittsburgh left-hander Bailey Falter carried a no-hitter into the seventh inning and the Pirates beat Miami for a sweep of the season series.

Falter (8-7) allowed three walks before Jonah Bride dropped a single into left field with one out in the seventh.

The 27-year-old Falter gave up a leadoff single to Cristian Pache in the eighth before being pulled on 93 pitches (57 strikes) after getting the first out with Kyle Stowers flying to center. Four of Falter's five strikeouts came in the first five batters, striking out the side in the first inning on 10 pitches.

David Bednar pitched the ninth but could not pick up his first save since Aug. 23. Otto Lopez led off with a double before Jake Burger reached on an error by shortstop Isiah Kiner-Falefa. Bednar struck out Bride and Jesús Sánchez before Pache hit an RBI single up the middle.

GUARDIANS 6, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Lane Thomas had four RBIs and Cleveland held on behind their bullpen to beat Chicago for a three-game series sweep.

Austin Hedges added a solo home run for the AL-Central leading Guardians, who moved four games ahead of second-place Kansas City in the division and a half game ahead of New York for the best record in the American

League. The Royals play the Yankees in the Bronx on Wednesday night.

Chicago dropped a franchise-record 15th straight at home, lost its 17th in 19 overall and was swept for the 24th time. At 33-114, the White Sox are closing in on the post-1900 record for losses—120 by the 1962 New York Mets in their inaugural season.

DIAMONDBACKS 14, RANGERS 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Ketel Marte homered and had four RBIs, Eugenio Suárez hit two homers and Arizona routed Texas.

The Diamondbacks won the series opener between last year's World Series' teams 6-0 and jumped on Cody Bradford (5-3) early in the series finale.

Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer off the right-hander in a three-run first inning, Suárez added a solo shot in the second and Marte hit his three-run shot in the fourth. Adrian Del Castillo added a three-run shot in the fifth inning and Suárez closed out a 4-for-4 day with a solo shot in the seventh.

Advertisement

TIGERS 7, ROCKIES 4
DETROIT (AP)—Kerry Carpenter matched a career-high with four hits and Detroit kept their improbable wild-card hopes alive with a win over Colorado.

Carpenter came up in the seventh needing a homer for the cycle—the first for a Tiger since Carlos Guillen in 2006—but hit an infield single.

Tigers starter Casey Mize allowed four runs on six hits in 4 2/3 innings, striking out seven without walking a batter. Tyler Holton (6-1) got the win with two scoreless innings of relief and Jason Foley got his 22nd save with a scoreless ninth.

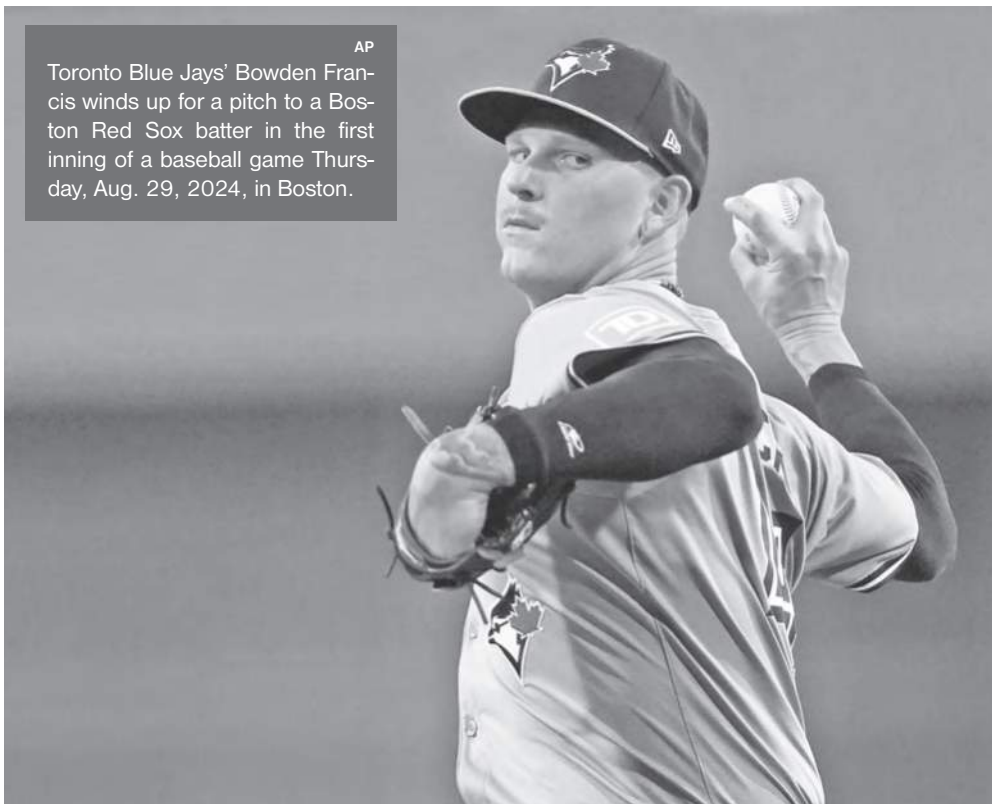
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PHILLIES 3, RAYS 2
PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Weston Wilson drove in the tiebreaking run with an infield single down the third-base line, and Philadelphia beat Tampa Rays to complete a three-game sweep.

Nick Castellanos homered and Zack Wheeler struck out nine batters over six innings as the Phillies reduced their magic number to clinch their first National League East title since 2011 to nine.

Wilson's hit came with two outs in the sixth and went all of 70 feet down the line, but it was perfectly placed and allowed Castellanos to score from third. It marked the third-straight game a Philadelphia bench player came up with the go-ahead hit.

AP
Toronto Blue Jays' Bowden Francis winds up for a pitch to a Boston Red Sox batter in the first inning of a baseball game Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, in Boston.



NATIONALS 5, BRAVES 1

WASHINGTON (AP)—CJ Abrams hit a home run, Jake Irvin gave up one run and two hits in six innings, and Washington beat Atlanta.

Atlanta starter Max Fried kept his team close, but the Braves only had six hits and fell one game behind the Mets—6-2 winners over the Blue Jays on Wednesday—in the race for the third NL wild card.

Fried (9-9) allowed four runs on 11 hits over six innings, striking out six and walking none with one hit batter on 94 pitches. The left-hander has gone at least six innings in four of his last five starts, but this was the first time allowing four earned runs since Aug. 10.

TWINS 6, ANGELS 4

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Matt Wallner homered for the second straight game, Brooks Lee snapped an 0-for-19 stretch with a go-ahead, two-run double and Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Advertisement

Royce Lewis nearly had his sixth career grand slam for Minnesota in the seventh inning, as his drive to left field was initially called a home run but a review showed that the ball hit off the top of the wall and back into play for a two-run double.

RED SOX 5, ORIOLES 3, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Tyler O'Neill hit a three-run homer to left with one out in the 10th inning to give Boston a victory over Baltimore.

O'Neill connected off Keegan Akin (3-1) after Rafael Devers struck out and Romy Gonzalez reached on second baseman Jackson Holliday's fielding error.

O'Neill has 30 homers this

season. He had his second walk-off homer of the season and fifth overall.

Greg Weissert (4-2) got the victory after giving up Emmanuel Rivera's RBI single in the bottom of the 10th.

Playing Boston for the final time in the regular season, the Orioles tied it at 2 with two outs in the eighth on Anthony Santander's 41st homer, a shot to right off Justin Slaten.

CARDINALS 2, REDS 1

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Paul Goldschmidt's double in the eighth inning scored Michael Siani with the tiebreaking run, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Cincinnati Reds 2-1 on Wednesday night.

Siani led off the eighth with a single and stole second. With out one, pinch-hitter Alec Burleson was hit by a pitch. Goldschmidt, who had singled in the first inning, doubled to center off pitcher Buck Farmer (3-1), scoring Siani.

JoJo Romero (7-2) got the final two outs in the eighth inning and earned the win. Ryan Helsley needed just eight pitches for a 1-2-3 ninth inning and earned his MLB-leading 44th save in 48 opportunities.

St. Louis starter Lance Lynn tied his career high with seven strikeouts in five innings. The 37-year-old right-hander allowed one run on five hits and one walk.

YANKES 4, ROYALS 3, 11 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a game-ending infield single with one out in the 11th inning and New York outlasted Kansas City for a victory.

Juan Soto launched a go-ahead homer in the sixth for the Yankees, who increased their AL East lead to 1 1/2 games over Baltimore.

Shortly before Chisholm

came through, the Orioles lost 5-3 in 10 innings at Fenway Park when Tyler O'Neill hit a walk-off homer for Boston.

Chisholm came up with runners on first and third after Kris Bubic (0-1) intentionally walked Aaron Judge following a groundout by Soto that sent automatic runner Jon Berti from second base to third.

ATHLETICS 5, ASTROS 4

HOUSTON (AP)—Kyle McCann hit a two-run homer, Brent Rooker had two hits and two RBIs and Oakland beat Houston.

The Astros have lost three straight games and their lead in the AL West has narrowed to four games over Seattle with 17 to play.

Houston also lost All-Star second baseman Jose Altuve, who exited after the fifth inning with right side discomfort. He called manager Joe Espada and the trainer out after a swing on strike two of his at bat in the fifth. He completed the at bat, striking out on a bunt attempt, but did not take the field in the sixth.

McCann hit a two-run homer off Hunter Brown (11-8), and Rooker hit an RBI single off Caleb Ferguson as the A's plated three to take a 5-3 lead in the sixth. Rooker also had an RBI single as part of two-run third that tied the game at 2-2.

MARINERS 5, PADRES 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Bryan Woo took a perfect game into the seventh inning, Luke Raley had a two-run single and Seattle beat San Diego.

J.P. Crawford added a two-run double as Seattle moved within 3 1/2 games of first-place Houston in the AL West by splitting a two-game series with the Padres.

Woo (8-2) retired his first

19 batters before Fernando Tatis Jr. lined a home run to left field with one out in the seventh. Woo's fastball caught too much of the plate and Tatis was able to keep it fair down the line to end the perfect game, no-hitter and shutout with one swing.

Until that point, Woo was overpowering. Wearing specially designed shoes that included the image of wrestling star Ric Flair, the second-year pitcher relied on his fastball at the top of the strike zone to overpower the Padres.

GIANTS 13, BREWERS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski homered and drove in four runs, Blake Snell struck out eight in five innings, and San Francisco beat Milwaukee.

Jerar Encarnacion also homered and had three RBIs, and Tyler Fitzgerald and Patrick Bailey each had three hits.

The Giants knocked around Brewers starter Colin Rea (12-5) early, beginning the game with consecutive four-run innings. In the first, a passed ball on Brewers catcher Williams Contreras accounted for the first run. LaMonte Wade Jr. followed with an RBI single, and then Encarnacion hit an opposite-field homer to right to give the Giants a 4-0 lead.

The first four Giants batters had hits in the second inning for four more runs. Fitzgerald had an RBI double, and Yastrzemski followed with a three-run homer. Yastrzemski drove in his fourth run in the fourth inning with an extra-base hit. Matt Chapman homered later in the inning to pad the advantage to 10-1.

DODGERS 10, CUBS 8

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gavin Lux singled in the go-ahead run with two outs in the seventh inning and Los Angeles rallied after blowing a 7-3 lead to beat Chicago and avoid a series sweep.

Shohei Ohtani hit his 47th home run and stole his 48th base while three other Dodgers went deep in the first inning for the NL West leaders, whose magic number to clinch the division dropped to 11 after San Diego lost at Seattle.

Tommy Edman homered for the fourth time in 24 hours. His two-out, two-run shot off Trey Wingenter in the eighth extended the Dodgers' lead to 10-7. The switch-hitter went deep in the first from the right side and then from the left.

Trailing by three, the Cubs threatened in the ninth. Dodgers reliever Michael Kopech loaded the bases on consecutive walks to Dansby Swanson, Seiya Suzuki and former Dodger Cody Bellinger.

NBA expands scope of coach's challenge reviews



NEW YORK (AP)—

The NBA has expanded the permissible scope of coach's challenge reviews on some out-of-bounds plays, saying Tuesday that if a foul should have been called on the play it now can be assessed shortly after the fact.

The league's Board of Governors approved the move on the second day of its two-day meeting in New York, after it was unanimously recommended by the league's competition committee last week. The change will take effect this season.

The review change could have come into play at least once in last season's playoffs, when Dallas' Kyrie Irving fouled Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels and the ball went out of bounds. No foul was called on the play, and even though the review clearly showed Irving hitting McDaniels' arm the ball was awarded to Dallas because it went out off of McDaniels.

When such out-of-bounds plays have reviews triggered by coaches challenging now, on-court officials and the NBA Replay Center "will be able to review the video to determine whether a foul proximate to the violation should have been called," the league said, providing that certain criteria are met.

Those criteria: whether the players involved in the uncalled foul are the same or different players than the



AP
NBA Commissioner Adam Silver talks to reporters before Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals between the Boston Celtics and the Dallas Mavericks, Thursday, June 6, 2024, in Boston.

ones involved in the out-of-bounds violation under review, and how much time has elapsed between the uncalled foul and the violation.

FIBA visits the meeting

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told The Associated Press last month that the league is ramping up talks with FIBA on how to best increase its competitive footprint in Europe either through an annual tournament or an

NBA-operated league.

As part of those talks, FIBA secretary general Andreas Zagklis visited the board of governors meeting on Tuesday.

"There's agreement that where we are in terms of the level of interest in basketball in Europe is not commensurate with the commercial activities. ... I think the way all of us see it, it's not just about a business opportunity," Silver said. "We've been in this position before in our

leagues, where if you can't demonstrate to the market that you can run a successful business, it's not sustainable. I think for basketball to continue to grow, we need (something) whether it's a series of tournaments or a league that is viable."

Expansion update

There was not much in the way of expansion talks during this board meeting, Silver said, for one simple reason: "We're not quite ready,"

the commissioner said.

Silver had said many times that once the league got its next series of media rights deals done—something that was signed earlier this summer, though there is an ongoing legal challenge brought by Warner Bros. Discovery—that expansion would be the next big thing for the league to tackle.

"I know I've said this before, I think over time organizations should grow. It is appropriate," Silver said.

Source: Nuggets star Murray agrees to a 4-year, \$208M max contract extension

DENVER (AP)—Denver Nuggets star point guard Jamal Murray has agreed to a four-year, \$208 million maximum contract extension, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity as the deal, which keeps Murray out of free agency next summer, awaited the requisite signatures.

Murray made a remarkable return from a torn ACL that sidelined him for all of the 2021-22 season to help lead the Nuggets to the franchise's first NBA title in 2023.

That was followed by an injury-filled regular season and truncated playoff run this summer, which preceded a disappointing performance by the Canadian in the Paris Olympics, where he often came off the bench.

In Denver, though, Murray is three-time MVP Nikola Jokic's pick-and-roll partner and provides the Nuggets with one of the NBA's best offensive duos.

"But it gets a bit complicated in terms of selling equity in the league, what that means for the existing television relationships, etc. What we've told interested parties is, 'Thank you for your interest, we'll be back to you.'"

Timberwolves, Celtics sales update

The NBA is essentially in wait-and-see mode regarding the potential sales of two franchises, the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Boston Celtics.

The sale situation surrounding the Timberwolves has been in dispute for months. Marc Lore and Alex Rodriguez agreed more than three years ago to buy the Timberwolves for \$1.5 billion from Glen Taylor, who halted the sale on March 28 because he said they missed the deadline to make the final payment. Those parties are headed to arbitration, though it remains unclear what will come of that.

"That's a process that exists independent of the league that was set out in the sales agreement," Silver said.

Meanwhile, in July, the ownership group of the NBA champion Boston Celtics, led by Wyc Grousbeck, said it intends to sell the majority of its shares later this year or early next year, then close on a sale of the balance of remaining shares in 2028.

"I think that Wyc Grousbeck and his ownership group are in the process of working through what the steps will be," Silver said.

The extension, which has been in the works for months, will keep Murray in a Nuggets uniform through the 2028-29 season.

The franchise's all-time leader in 3-pointers, Murray averaged a career-best 21.2 points and 6.5 assists last season, but he missed several games with a variety of nagging injuries.

After hitting a pair of game winners in the Nuggets' first-round series against the Los Angeles Lakers, Murray was hobbled in Denver's seven-game loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves in the second round.

General manager Calvin Booth said following the early exit that the team needs Murray to be in top shape for the rigors of the upcoming season and for it to make another deep playoff run.

Murray averaged just 6 points per game at the Olympics and shot below 30% from the floor and 15% from 3-point range, leading many Nuggets fans to wonder if his extension would get done.



NBA BRIEFS

Lakers will honor Jerry West this season with a uniform band

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers will honor Jerry West in the upcoming season with a uniform band featuring his No. 44. The Lakers announced their plan Tuesday to remember West, who died in June at 86. The purple band on the left shoulder of the Lakers' uniforms has No. 44 in gold at the center. West played his entire 14-year NBA career for the Lakers, becoming one of the greatest scorers and most versatile guards of his era while earning 14 All-Star selections and earning the nickname "Mr. Clutch." West went on to be a coach and an executive with the Lakers, most notably building the 1980s "Showtime" roster around Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The Lakers won five NBA championships and reached nine NBA Finals in a 12-year span. West stayed on for the beginning of the Lakers' next championship era, acquiring

Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal before departing in 2000. The Lakers also plan to have a formal ceremony honoring West at their season opener against Minnesota on Oct. 22. West worked for the Grizzlies, Warriors and Clippers before his death. The Laker also confirmed their previously reported plan to retire Michael Cooper's No. 21 jersey on Jan. 13. Cooper, the shooting guard on the Lakers' best Showtime-era teams, was elected to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame earlier this year. The Lakers only retire the jerseys of Hall of Fame players.

Mavericks re-sign Markieff Morris

DALLAS (AP)—The Mavericks are bringing back forward Markieff Morris, a 13-year veteran who has played sparingly since joining Dallas but brings leadership that is valued by the defending Western Conference champions. The deal announced Wednesday comes after Morris played

26 regular-season games in 2023-24 before the Mavericks made a run to the NBA Finals, losing in five games to Boston. The 35-year-old Morris averaged 2.5 points in 8.3 minutes for the Mavericks. He joined Dallas in the blockbuster deal that brought star guard Kyrie Irving to the Mavericks before the trade deadline in 2023. Morris has averaged 10.3 points and 4.9 rebounds in 776 career regular-season games. He played all 21 postseason games for the Los Angeles Lakers when they won the title in 2020 playoff bubble. Phoenix drafted Morris 13th overall in 2011 out of Kansas, and he spent his first four-plus seasons with the Suns. Morris also has played for Washington, Oklahoma City, Detroit and Miami.

Lakers' Christian Wood will be out at least two months after another knee procedure

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers big man Christian Wood will be out for at least two

months after undergoing another arthroscopic surgical procedure on his left knee. Wood had the unspecified procedure Monday at UCLA Medical Center, the Lakers announced. He will be re-evaluated in about eight weeks, roughly early November. Wood missed the final two months of last season after undergoing an arthroscopic procedure on his left knee in March. "I was just feeling like my old self again and was in peak shape," Wood wrote on social media. "Minor setback for a major comeback, and to my fans, don't stop believing in me." Wood is returning to the Lakers this season after picking up his \$3 million player option. He averaged 6.9 points and 5.1 rebounds in 50 games last season, his first with Los Angeles. The Lakers are the eighth NBA team for Wood, a Los Angeles-area native. Los Angeles reports to training camp later this month and opens the regular season Oct. 22 at home against Minnesota.

El Champions bag 1st win



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

El Champions players pose for a group photo during the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Masters Division at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By **LEIGH GASES**

leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

El Champions bagged their first win in the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Masters Division.

It was a low-scoring game but El Champions managed to slip past Century Insurance, 52-46, last Sunday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was anybody's game throughout as both teams

were evenly matched.

El Champions was led by Romano Vicente as he made 10 consecutive shots in the first quarter. Century Insurance' Fradel Sedillo tried to keep pace as he made 6 straight points himself. It was back-and-forth from there and that was the name of the game as both teams tried to get the better of the other.

The first quarter ended in a 4-point lead by El Cham-

pions, 24-20, while by the end of the second, Century

Insurance had a tight 2-point lead, 34-32.

Latte FC and KES partner for tree planting event



Latte Football Club, in partnership with Koblerville Elementary School, successfully organized a tree planting event on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 7, as part of the club's commitment to giving back to the school community.

The event saw the planting of more than 35 trees and plants on the school grounds, many of which were gathered by vice principal Jonas Barcinas, with some donated by school supporters.

This project was a gesture of gratitude to the school for allowing Latte FC's youth teams to use the school's field for weekly practices.

Latte FC president Alex Sablan shared his thoughts on the event, stating, "Our club members are dedicated stewards of the environment we live and play in. The tree planting effort by our women's teams, coaches and club leadership

reflects our commitment to give back to the community and leave the world a little better than we found it. We truly appreciate the collaboration with vice principal Barcinas and KES. We hope to continue improving the campus while engaging the school's youth and introducing them to soccer, in the hopes that they will develop a passion for the game."

Zowie Cruz, a participant in the event and 2023 Miss

Northern Marianas Earth, added, "It was an honor to be part of this event, especially with my term as Miss Earth concluding. Being involved in such a meaningful project is a reminder of the impact we can make in our community. I am proud of our club's efforts to both beautify the school and inspire our youth to stay active, not just through soccer, but also by engaging in environmental activities like tree planting."

As the first of many planned projects, the tree planting event highlights how soccer, a global and unifying sport, can support important causes like environmental stewardship. This project reflects Latte FC's values, demonstrating how combining soccer with meaningful service can create positive and lasting impacts on our community.

For media inquiries, contact Latte Football Club general secretary Carline B. Sablan at (670) 483-5634. (PR)



LATTE FC

Latte FC women's players, coaches, and club officials join Koblerville Elementary School vice principal Jonas Barcinas for a group photo after planting palm trees and santan plants at the school's playground.

BAT

From page 20

Ass Up went on to score three more in the sixth.

It was enough to secure the win as AB Team could not make further contact and succumbed to an 8-15 loss.

In other results, Yayaya

beat Saipal, 12-7; Parre' Pack bombed Taotao Mona, 10-6; Blue Jays upset The Kliq, 12-10; Homies overpowered Ur Balls, 13-4; Just4Fun defeated Brotherhood, 14-4; Wazup bid Team Luchan adieu, 10-8; and Red Torch fired their way past Aimeliik Bat Boys, 6-3.

MHS

From page 20

But the bottom of the lineup proved to be the game changer for the Dolphins as Norita, Ben, and Otobed manufactured three runs in the last inning to untie the knotted up ball game, 15-12. It was enough to secure their second win as their pitcher held down the Ayuyus to just one run in their last at-bat for

a 13-15 final.

Organizers did not provide last names for the KHS JV team.

If weather permits, the next games are scheduled for tomorrow at 9am between the KHS varsity and Mount Carmel School, with the second game at 10:30am between MHS and Saipan International School.

The championship rounds are slated for Oct. 10-12.



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows a Marianas High School varsity fast pitch softball player ready at the plate during their first game in the Inaugural PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 at the Dandan Softball Field.

TSUNAMI

From page 20

ity," said Kimura.

It makes up the biggest group in Tsunami Saipan's six classes with 19 members, namely Darren Wu, Chaz Asuncion, Jiwon Li, Alex Jung, Elijah Cabrera, Timothy Park, Hiro Suzuki, Alonzo Petito, Chad Asuncion, Ched Asuncion, Owen Li, Ryan Jung, Clover Cha, Chez Asuncion, Luna Li, April Nie, Jane Choi, and Hyeju Kim.

Last but not the least, the Start-up Class consists of Ajun Jang, Ziah Bellas, Kai Seok, Aaron Ko, Ethan Ko, Jia Kim, Jenny Xu, and Suah Kim.

"Swimmers in this class are taught class rules, social manners, and group work. They train on swim kicking

skills. It's just a fun class with play time also. We can accept only 6 years old and younger to enroll in the Start-up Class. If 7 years old and older kids and have swimming experience, there is a possibility to enroll in our Fitness Class, but it depends on their skills," said Kimura.

"Ikusei Class and Beginner Class can't go to off-island meets. Only Jyun-sensyu and over can go. Tsunami Saipan also has a rule where there's no age limit for each class. If there is a very fast swimmer but still 8 years old, that swimmer practices in the Sensyu Class. If there is a high school swimmer but is very slow, that swimmer stays in Beginner Class," he added.

Several Tsunami Saipan swimmers said they're excit-

ed to begin the new season.

"I am most definitely excited about the new captain and vice-captain, Shoko Litulumar and Kouki Watanabe, to lead this new generation to improvement, as well as myself. I look forward to improve my weaknesses and overall times yet still help the new senior class swimmers to brush up their swims. I also look forward to achieving my goals, as I have multiple such as representing the CNMI in the Pacific Mini Games," said Maria Guerrero.

For Haoyang Son, the new season brings a new set of challenges and goals.

"Every time when I tried my best and got a faster record than before, I got excited. I'm also excited

when I master a new swimming technique. I hope I can swim faster and learn more swimming techniques in the new season because I want to catch up with our top swimmer."

Yoonmin Cho, meanwhile, wants to improve some more to go up a class.

"I'm looking forward to seeing myself to join the more advanced class and making many new friends on the team."

The Arriola brothers also chimed in about the new season.

"I am very excited to do this season's new workouts. I hope to be a fast swimmer," said Apollo, while Chris said, "I hope to break my personal records, most especially backstroke."



Mets score 6 in 9th
to break up no-
hitter vs. Blue Jays,
6-2.

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El Champions bag
1st win.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tsunami Saipan starts season with loaded cast

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Coach Hiroyuki Kimura and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center will welcome the new 2024-2025 season with over 50 swimmers spread across six classes—Sensyu, Jyun Sensyu, Ikusei, Beginner, Fitness, and Star-up.



TSUNAMI SAIPAN

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center swimmers in their various classes—Sensyu, Jyun Sensyu, Ikusei, Beginner, Fitness, and Star-up—pose for a group photo as they start the new season recently.

The many time CNMI national swimming coach said the Sensyu Class is Tsunami Saipan's top group.

"Everyone has a chance to be a CNMI national swimmer. The purpose of the group is to be national representatives and along the way break the CNMI national record," he said.

The 12 swimmers that populate the Sensyu Class are Kevin Guerrero, Kouki Watanabe, Justin Ma, Richard Zhao, Shoko Litulumar, Maria Batallones, Sari Barman, Maria Guerrero, Haoyang Song,



Catalina Frink, Sera Guerrero, and Gwen Retardo.

"We have testing to become a member of Sensyu Class. Swimmers who cannot follow workouts or swimmers who have low practice attendance will fail and go back to the lower class," said Kimura.

For the Jyun-sensyu Class, the eligibility is swimmers must get a BB time or better. The goal of swimmers in this class is to progress to Sensyu Class and endeavor to compete in off-island meets.

Currently there are only

three members of the group and they are Seungwoo Lee, Eva Shin, and Yoonmin Cho.

The purpose of the Ikusei Class, meanwhile, is for swimmers to brush up on the four swimming strokes in competition—freestyle, butterfly, backstroke, and breaststroke—and to learn swimming rules and ways to win in races.

Included in the group are Xingchen Wang, Apollo Arriola, Yubo Lin, Leo Li, Chris Arriola, Angelo Pepito, Andrea Ryu, Hyeyun Kim, Lucy Shin, and Xingyu Wang.

The Beginner Class' pur-

pose is to teach swimmers the aforementioned four swimming strokes as well as how to turn, touch the goal, and learn swimming skill in what Kimura likes to call how to swim faster than yesterday.

Minjoon Choi, Yo Suzuki, Jonathan Park, Aiden Velasco, Evan Zhang, Milana Sablan, Emily Kang, and Jesse Concepcion make up Tsunami Saipan's Beginner Class.

Swimmers in the Fitness Class are drilled to learn rules, social manners, and group work. "It's not swim practice yet, but more like a fun activ-

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MHS is 2-for-2 in fast pitch

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School Dolphins varsity fast-pitch softball team has won their second game in a row in the Inaugural PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League.

They collected their second win in as many games over Kagman High School JV, 15-13, last Monday before a downpour of rain at the Dandan Softball Field.

The Dolphins got off to a slow start with just two runs in by the third inning, while it was the complete opposite for KHS JV.

The Ayuyus started off hot, but cooled down when

it mattered the most at the end. They collected seven runs by the second for a 7-1 lead, then added another in the third for an 8-2 ball game.

Then, the Dolphins came back in the fourth inning after Vinco Norita and Ramon Sablan put two up on the board. They added eight more in the fifth from runs by almost the whole lineup—Jake Aguon, Joel Cabrera, Thomas Chong, Mychel Deleon Guerrero, Norita, Sablan, Ben, and Trey Otobed, for a 12-10 game.

The rally didn't diminish the Ayuyus' confidence though as they scored two from Kallan and Avenbert at the bottom of the fifth to tie it up, 12-12.

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Bat Dat Ass up brings down AB Team, 15-8

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bat Dat Ass Up brought down AB Team, 15-8, in the continuation of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

AB Team led the game off with a solo shot by Ricky Joe Riungel. But Bat Dat Ass Up started and ended strong as they pummeled AB Team pitcher Bobby Castro in the first inning with four runs to make it 4-1.

AB Team then retaliated in the second with six runs including two homers by Riungel and Mac Scaliem to take the lead, 7-4. At the bottom of the second, Bat Dat Ass



LEIGH GASES

Bat Dat Ass Up pitcher Lester Manglona in action during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Men's Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

Up pitcher Keahie Omapas helped his cause by hitting a two-run bomb to get them within one, 6-7.

Both teams then went radio silent in the next few innings, but the tide changed in the fifth in favor of Bat Dat Ass Up.

Six runs would round the bases for Bat Dat Ass Up as Castro could not get a good handle on his pitches. John Deleon Guerrero started the inning with a solo shot, followed by runs from Jesus Tyquengco, Omapas, John Diaz, Albert, and John Agulto.

Finally, the inning ended but by the time the dust settled, Bat Dat Ass Up led, 12-7. Only one more run would come in for AB Team from a solo home run by Ping Norita to make it 8-12, while Bat Dat

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LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School varsity fastpitch softball pitcher Jesus Santos winds up for the pitch during their first game in the Inaugural PSS-NMI Softball Association Interscholastic Boys High School Fast Pitch Softball League 2024-2025 at the Dandan Softball Field.